CLAUDIA RODEN: Time to put French food back on the table COMMENT, PAGE 19

EVEREST DIARY In the dentist's chair at 16,000 feet NEWS, PAGE 7



ADDICTS AT THE CROSSROADS Clapton opens Antiguan rehab centre NEWS, PAGE 3

LUDLOW **UNDER SIEGE Market town** fights off new invaders FEATURES, PAGE I



Newspaper of the Year for photographs INDFP

70p (IR70p)

Crisis day for Trimble as Unionists vote

By David McKittrick and Anthony Bevins

DAVID TRIMBLE today goes before a deeply divided Ulster Unionist Party in a quest for a is prepared to support it. vital endorsement of last week's potentially historic new British-rister in the party, yesterday Irish agreement.

camp and within the anti-agree- on the verge of ripping itself ment faction were last night forecasting that he would win the vote at this morning's meeting of the 800-strong Ulster stituency chairmen and vice Unionist Council, his party's governing body.

But most observers are also expecting a substantial vote against the agreement, following rejections of the accord by a number of influential elements within Unionism and Orangeism.

which in 1995 elected Mr through today's meeting. In in-Trimble as leader of the terviews clearly designed to re-Orange march in Co Armagh two months earlier. He goes into leased from prison or serving in Armagh.' today's meeting with both the Order's Grand Lodge and specifically its Co Armagh

Lodge opposed to the new deal. endorsed the agreement last Saturday, the days since then are still wedded to violence." have seen growing opposition to

that today's meeting will reveal a hitherto silent majority which John Hunter, a leading bar-

gave a flavour of the activity Sources in both the Trimble within its ranks, describing it as apart. He said: "You've had ming down phones on conversa. Families are split, lifelong friends are solit, council colleagues are split. My great fear is that Unionism has the potential at this time to literally pull itself apart."

Tony Blair yesterday offered Mr Trimble maximum support The Council is the body in the hope of helping him the gun and the bomb being rethe proposed Belfast assembly.

work if you have a situation where you have got people sitting Although the UUP executive round a table trying to govern, making decisions, some of whom He added: "If the IRA car-

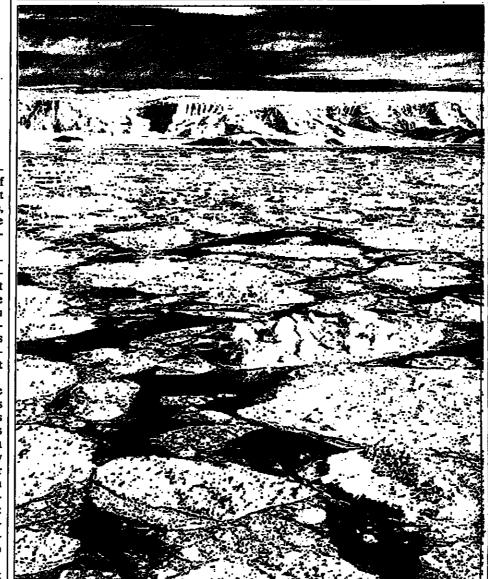
the accord, with few influential ry on being committed to viovoices in the party raised in its lence or, simply, it is a series of defence. Mr Trimble will hope tactical gestures, but there is not a genuine break with violence, then there is the provision there for people to be excluded or removed from office."

On the question of prisoners, Mr Blair went on: "It is important that people realise what is being proposed here. There is no question of any remission members of parliament slam- or early release unless the organisation and the individuals themselves have given up violence and are safe to be let out into the community.

The decision of the Orange Order in Armagh, which covers Mr Trimble's constituency, was particularly unwelcome to his camp. His close identification with the Order has previously been seen as one of his power bases. Armagh Orangemen urged him to reconsider his po-Unionist party following his assure waverers, the Prime sition on the agreement adding: hardline performance at the Minister said there was no "It is with regret that we are unfirst controversial Drumcree prospect of people wedded to able to recommend its acceptance to the brethren of

> Rival Unionists clashed at He said: "The assembly won't the Northern Ireland Forum in Belfast, where Paislevites kept up a barrage of heckling as Mr Trimble defended the accord. There were cries of "What about the guns?" and "Sell-out". Hardliners, page 2

Today Antarctica, tomorrow the Thames?



nurses out and back to Britain.

The ice age cometh: A huge ice shelf on the north of the Antarctic has fallen into the sea, new satellite photographs show. Is it global warming? And could it, perversely, turn off the Gulf Stream which warms Britain - and so plunge us into subzero temperatures much of the year? Story, page 2 Photograph: Environmental Images

Children are not fashion accessories, say teachers

Education Correspondent

TEACHERS lambasted parents yesterday for treating their offspring as fashion accessories and allowing a generation of

spoilt children to run wild. Members of the secondlargest classroom union said home and called on parents to back up teachers.

Jacqueline Simpson, a eacher from Leeds, told the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers conference in Scarborough: "Whatever happened to the culture of an extra wallop at home if you get told off at school. If parents are unable to take responsibility for their had never talked to him. She to, or be punished in some way that hurts."

attacking parents for confusing port of everything their children do or say".

comes after repeated complaints schools should not be expected about declining standards of to address their failings." behaviour and parenting. Teachers meeting over Easter have ing: "They come to the classheard repeated warnings about room and hit members of staff verbal or physical assaults on who tell their child off, telling the staff by unruly pupils and even by their narents.

tary of State for Education, told the NASUWT on Thursday that he shared their concerns and promised to be "as tough as nails" on parents who allowed their children to run wild.

Dave Battye, a member of the union's national executive, said: "Parents give children everything they want and don't there was too little discipline at tell them off. Parenting is not saying 'you can have everything you want and everything you do will be right'. Good parents take responsibility for their children and in doing that they put on restrictions."

Sue Rogers, a teacher from Sheffield, said she had heard of one child who arrived at a primary school only able to speak four words, because his parents offspring, they should be made also described looking after a child whose father was a doctor. "He came to me and he said Delegates backed a motion 'I do not understand what you talk to her about. I never know "good parenting with total sup- what to say to her.' Isn't that sad, isn't that tragic? ... Parents have the major responsibility for bringing up their children and

She attacked parents, claimteacher that their child does not lie or hit other pupils, and won't David Blunkett, the Secre- believe what you tell them."

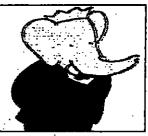
The latest PC ruling: Babar is a 'rhinoist'

By David Lister Arts News Editor

BABAR the Elephant, a staple bedtime story, has been deemed politically incorrect.

Both King Babar and his wife, Queen Celeste, display Eurocentrism by wearing western clothes and the stories are seen as sexist with Celeste displaying a weak personality and appallingly conventional dress sense, never wearing trousers. The imperialist Babar is also guilty of "internalised racism"

towards the Rhino kingdom. These are the conclusions of ism student at Simon Fraser University in Canada. The Rhinos, she explains, "are portrayed as ignorant, gruff, thick-headed and prone to violence, symbolising Eurocentric conceptions of ignorant, uncivilised African savages". But hers is just one contribution to an international academic debate on supposed anti-social dren's favourite elephant. An-



Babar: not so much an

other published attack is titled with staggering hyperobole: "Should We Burn Babar?"

The defence of Babar is being mounted by Kent State Angela Aujila, a multicultural- University in Ohio. It has the world's largest collection of Babar memorabilia, and its own Babar scholar, Professor Ann Hildebrand. She has written a book on Babar's creators, Jean and Laurent de Brunhoff, and describes Babar as "a wonderful teaching tool for



Blair wants to bring peace to Middle East

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

TONY Blair is pushing for a greater European role in the process forward". Middle East peace process, in the hope that it can help to break the current stalemate between Israel and the

On the first leg of his fourday trip to the Middle East, enroute to Cairo, the Prime Minister said that it was possible to make progress - "but only if there is a determined sense of will on both sides to do so". Fresh from his own success

in Northern Ireland, Mr Blair said: "It is extremely important to make progress. If we don't, the show slips backwards, there is a bit of a stand-off and a bit of frustration and that poses problems for the whole

Indicating the potential for European investment to oil the for the two British nurses - Debwheels of diplomacy, Mr Blair orah Parry and Lucille who currently holds the pres-

idency of the European Union - said that he hoped the EU "in tandem and in concert with the Americans can try and move the

Last night, in Cairo. Mr Blair held talks with President Hosni Mubarak, in which he said that Britain stood "shoulder to shoulder to fight terrorism from wherever it comes" a direct response to Egyptian claims that Britain is being moving forward the peace used as a safe haven foothold for terrorist activity.

Today in Cairo, Mr Blair will launch a new Egyptian-British business council to stimulate investment, now totalling £1bn. One of the executives of the new progress, was underlined by a council will be Sir Peter de la Billière, who commanded British forces in the Gulf war.

Tomorrow, the Blair caravanserai will move on to Saudi Arabia, where he plans to raise the question of an early release McLauchlan.

They were jailed for the murder of Yvonne Guilford, a fellow nurse at a Dhahran hospital in 1996 and there is a hope that their early release can be negotiated.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said yesterday: "If we lower expectations, everything else is a bonus." The clear hope in the Blair party is that progress can be made in process, and in getting the two

The emphasis on British and European investment in the Middle East, and the hope that it can be used as a lever for welter of statistics about investment. In anticipation of the visit to Israel, beginning tomorrow, British sources said that the UK did £2bn-worth of business with Israel each year. It was also said that there were 30,000 British defence jobs dependent on Saudi defence

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, TIME OFF P14, 28 ● TELEVISION, THE EYE ● FULL CONTENTS, P2

GOODMAN BRIDGES **** "IN A PERFECT WORLD ALL MOVIES WOULD BE MADE BY THE COEN BROTHERS."

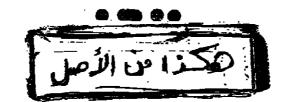
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IN TOMORROWS Independent on Sunday

BIDRINK, THEREFORE I AM Pual Routledge samples the Karl Marx pub crawl

SIZE MATTERS: why this is beautiful in the world of banking

SEAFOOD SPECIAL: Part Two of the ultimate guide, by Sophie Grigson

and William Black



IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT

STOP WASTING YOUR LIFE: Gerard Gilbert previews 'turn-off TV week'

> **QUANTUM LEAP:** The computer that would baffle Einstein

WHY DO BUSES ARRIVE IN THREES?

And other everyday dilemmas

EXECUTION COMING UP FROM THE **HOLLYWOOD STREETS:** The Big Issue arrives in LA

ADVERTISING WILL EAT ITSELF The parody of the latest commercials

Hardliners to challenge Sinn Fein

By Alan Murdoch in Dundali:

LEADERS of a hardline republican faction opposed to Sinn Fein's involvement in the Stormont talks have accused the party's leaders of censoring dissent and have vowed to picket the party's ard fheis (annual conference) in Dublin today.

Four senior members of the 32 County Sovereignty Committee claimed they had recruited hundreds of members across Ireland, One, Francie Mackey, accused Sinn Fein leaders of abandoning their principles: "We haven't left this movement. They have left the movement," he claimed.

Mr Mackey said the process that led to the Stormont agreement "had not the dynamic to lead to lasting peace". He claimed the outcome meant "British rule in Ireland has been strengthened and recognised as legitimate".

He confirmed that after a group of 30 border members resigned from Sinn Fein late last year, a dissident rump remained within the party. Six were recently suspended from a north Dublin branch.

"We all have a right to challenge the illegal British claim to part of our country. We all have a right to articulate that view within our party. We have been effectively silenced by this suspension. I reject being called a dissident. I am loyal to the Constitution of Sinn Fein." he said.

The group is headed by Bernadette Sands-McKevitt. the sister of Bobby Sands, the late IRA hunger striker. Speak-

ing in Dundalk on the Irish border, Rory Dougan, the group's press officer, declined to discuss members' involvement in violence or their reported links with another splinter group. the C-IRA, linked to recent explosions.

"I don't speak for the C-IRA, but I can understand their actions," he said. He defended "the right of Irish men and women to oppose British rule in this country".

Mr Dougan made an impassioned appeal to supporters among Sinn Fein ard fheis delegates to "defend your comrades' rights to be heard in the movement. We haven't gone away. We're not going away. We're republicans and we're staying republicans."

He said the 32 County activists represented people with a long republican involvement. A former party director of elections. Mr Dougan said he had several brothers who served terms in British jails and a pephew in the Maze Prison in Belfast.

Asked his view of Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, Mr Dougan said: "I believe they are honourable men, but have taken the party in the wrong direction."

The dissidents will formally discuss the agreement tomorrow and announce their "definitive" view on Wednesday.

Sinn Fein vice president Pat Doherty predicted yesterday that the party would not hold a vote on the agreement at the ard fheis. But Sinn Fein chairman Mitchel McLaughlin said later that delegates could themselves decide to give their verdict this weekend.



Key location: Selling the news in Belfast next to the Europa Hotel where David Trimble speaks today Photograph: John Voos

Unionist council poised for crucial vote

Ireland Correspondent

THE ULSTER Unionist Council, which will today make a decision crucial to the peace process, is such a far-flung and nebulous entity that even many party apparatchiks are uncertain

w its membership is made up. This uncertainty extends to its voting intentions, for at key points party members and close observers have failed to predict

September 1995 when just about everyone thought it would elect John Taylor as party leader, ture, while the council is fadelegates plumped instead for the most hardline candidate, David Trimble, who will today ask them for endorsement of the new British-Irish agreement. -

Although both pro-agreement and anti-agreement camps were yesterday forecasting a majority for Mr Trimble, both will be holding their breaths when the result of the

The agreement is by any standards a radical new deparmously conservative. Its age profile seems unpromising for innovation: well over half are members of the council who of pensionable age, with perhaps one-quarter in their sev-

In addition to delegates from each Westminster constituency association, it includes representatives from affiliated bodies which are entitled to Umonists and the Queen's Unisend more than 200 represen- versity Unionists.

tatives. The most important of these is the Orange Order, which can send up to 122. Many other delegates are also members of the Order. Ex-officio may vote include sitting and former MPs.

Although the agreement was endorsed by the party executive by a two-thirds majority, it was rejected during the week by the Orange Order, the Young

CONTENTS

Foreign Obituaries Leader & letters Unit trusts The back page Sport Crosswords

Time Off, 14-24

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.



Antarctic ice-shelf breaks free

By Charles Arthur Science and Technology Editor

NEW satellite pictures have shown that a huge section of a gigantic Antarctic ice shelf has broken away - confirming the predictions of British experts who warned months ago that it was under threat.

ing satellite have captured successive images from February and March this year - the Antarctic summer - showing the loss of a chunk 45 kilometres long and five kilometres across from the Larsen B ice Britain.

shelf on the eastern Antarctic peninsula coast.

At worst, it could be the prelude to massive climatic change for Britain that would make the Easter floods of last weekend seem mild. If the Antarctic ice pack begins to break up it could halt the Gulf Stream - the northwards ocean paratively warm for its latitude ters experienced in Newfoundland off the eastern Canadian seaboard, which lies

at about the same latitude as

WEATHER

But yesterday scientists at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) emphasised that the collapse could indicate nothing more significant than a little local trouble in one small part of

the continent. This latest finding does not, of itself, mean a change in sea levels or global ocean cira glaciologist. That is because ice shelves themselves are floating. However, the ice shelves may be the bulwark against the ice on land melting. Without them, sea levels might

"The big question is what sula has grown 2.5C warmer. initiated the climate warming on the peninsula itself," Mr Vaughan said, "We can't say at the moment. But whatever caused it is being made stronger by regional effects."

The new data does show huge by human standards though that the shelf is under about 12,000 square kilometres threat of breaking away into the - but tiny in the context of the sea and melting. "It's like a bridge - if you keep taking a couple of bricks away then eventually it will collapse." American researcher who analysed the pictures from the

The Larsen B is the biggest ice shelf threatened by this warming. Since the 1940s, the climate of the Antarctic penin- the previous ice that has been

lost from Antarctic ice sheets causing the ice shelves to start in the past two decades: melting. The rate of warming is several times greater than the

"The warming trend appears to be related to a reducworld average - but nobody tion in sea ice. The question now is what is causing the reduction. At this point, we do not have enough evidence to find a smoking gun."

But he thinks the data may licate a worrying trend, "Ice shelves appear to be good bellwethers for climatic change, since they respond to change within decades, rather than the years or centuries sometimes typical of other climate-

STAR



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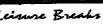
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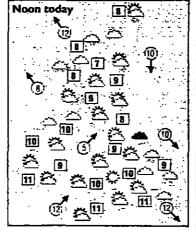
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Out to play. Here to stay.



Western Scottand will be cloudy with outbreaks of light ram and drizzle, but the east will be mostly dry with SURTY Dreaks, especially away from North Sea coasts. Northern Iteland will see some suriny breaks but there will be a lot of cloud around and this may give a little light rain in places. England and Wales will have a mix of surrey breaks and showers, but most of the showers will be in Kent and East Anglia with many other parts

Outlook for the next few days Sunday will be well everywhere, although the heaviest of the rain will be in southern areas during the afternoon, with most other parts seeing the ram at least ease a little. It will be mild on Sunday and it will continue to become milder through the coming week Monday and Tuesday will be uncettled with rain before we see a pleasant Viednesday and Thursday with mainly dry weather and plenty of sunshine.

World weather and recent available figure at most least time

British Isles weather most recent available figure at noon togal time Cucloudy: Cludeau: Efair: Foutou: Hz haze: Munest: Ruraire. C 846 Guernsey F 948 Inversess Aberdeen Anglesay Blackpool C 948 Liverpool Baurnemonth C. 9 48 Manchester Cardiff F 1152 · Oxford F 948 Plymouth Carlisle C 846 Southend C 948 F 1254 Sternoway C 846 Ediabarob Sternoway Exeter

C 10 50 York Glasgow Air quality

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INDEPENDENT Weatherline

knows why.

The Larsen B ice shelf is

But the loss of ice could be

significant. Ted Sambos, an

satellite, said: "The total size of

the Larsen B is more than all

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for voor area andicated by the above ones. Souther The Mes 06ce. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (no; VAT).

Lighting-up times Sun & moon

Atlantic chart, noon today

Mandy Allwood to dig up octuplets MANDY Allwood has applied

to disinter her octuplets and rebury them elsewhere following a row with cemetery authorities over the babies' grave. Ms Allwood, who lost the

children in a series of miscarriages in October 1996, is angry over Lambeth Council's refusal to allow her to use the words "mummy" and "daddy" on the tomb. As a result, there is still no tombstone and Ms Allwood and her partner, Paul Hudson, have applied to remove their children from West Norwood Cemetery in south-east London. Instead, the couple want to rebury the octuplets in a cemetery run by a local authority with a more relaxed policy.

Ms Allwood's spokesman Kizzi Nkwocha said: "They want to write on their headstone what comes naturally to them. not what some pencil-pushing bureaucrat says. It should be allowed in a dignified way. It is something intensely personal."

Ms Allwood's octuplets were stillborn in the 19th week of her pregnancy which had been the focus of international headlines. The couple was reported to have been paid up to £250,000 by the media for their story.

Mr Nkwocha said an application to disinter the bodies was currently with Lambeth's operational services department and he expected a response in the next few weeks.





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Clapton leads addicts to the crossroads

ERIC CLAPTON loves Antigua He has lived on the Caribbean island, on and off, for the past 15 years, the last 10 of them while "clean" of drugs and sober. The previous five were not so good, the wild final years of his decline towards the "rock bottom," of drug and alcohol addiction.

Antiguans stuck with him through the bad times, helping him when he was down, and respected his privacy when he returned from detox and needed his space. Now the guitar legend is giving something back to the island.

in a couple of months, Clapton will-open the 55m state-of-the-art Crossroads Rehabilitation Centre, the island's first treatment centre for addicts, on this secluded bay. It will treat mainly North Americans and Europeans for \$9,000 (almost-£6,000) a month, possibly including. some of Clapton's friends, but reserve 12 of its 36 beds to help local. Antiguan addicts for nothing.

The singer, who has not touched alcohol or drugs in 10 years, will visit the clinic regularly to share his own story during counselling sessions. In charge will be Toronto-born former nurse Anne Vance, who used to run the renowned Betty Ford rehab clinic in Palm Springs, California.

It will be "a Robin Hood-type thing, the tacitum singer-guitarist said in a rare recent interview on CNN's Larry King Live. which he gave specifically to publicise and seek funding for what had previously been a secretive venture. "I am primarily doing it for people who have no money that need treatment,"

He is setting up foundations in the US and Britain which will organise concerts and other fundraising events to subsidise the Antiguan patients.

Like much of the Caribbean, Antigua is increasingly plagued by serious drug addiction problems, mostly involving crack cocaine. After US anti-narcotics agents squeezed traditional Colombian cartel smuggling routes through Mexico, the Colombians took to moving their wares by boat through Caribbean islands, often paying local smugglers in cocaine rather than cash.

"I have been in a recovery programme for the past 10 years,"



Clean hand: Clapton, who has not touched drink or drugs for 10 years, wants to help the people of Antigua after they helped him through the bad times

ing and drugging and I have received treatment in rehabilitation centres in America.

The singer started taking drugs in London at the age of 15. "There was everything a man could want and yet every night I would want to kill myself and I wanted to die," he said in the CNN interview.

Internally I was falling to pieces I had a grand mal seizure. Scared the living daylights out of me. Woke up in the hospital."

More than 120 local workers toiled feverishly yesterday to complete the sprawling, hurricane-proof Clapton told reporters here during Crossroads Centre, named after a recent visit to watch construction - one of the guitarist's hit records, by of the centre before starting a US July. Its first patients will move in

starting with detoxification then working on the 12-step principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The fittings are luxurious, the view past the swimming pool and across the sparkling turquoise water, to where Clapton has a luxury home at Indian Creek, spectacular. A few hundred yards along an unpaved road lie the ruins of Britain's first Antiguan settlement at Bridgetown. A little further on is the exclusive Mill Reef Club, where Jackie Onassis used to be among the winter residents.

"Eric loves it here because he can drive around the island alone in his old pick-up truck and no one both-

to prevent feelings of isolation. said Hans Smit, a Dutch-born Antigua businessmen and friend, whose altruistic Hourglass Foundation helped get the project under way

> "He'll walk in here, maybe with a couple of friends, sit outside and order his favourite mineral water. said Everett "Mengalin" Francis, a bartender at Clapton's favourite restaurant, the Big Banana in the capital, St John's. "The locals don't bother him and they don't point him

four years ago, finding the land and

liaising with the Antiguan govern-

out to the cruise ship visitors." A big American corporation, Transitional Hospitals Corp, was initially to build the centre but had a

how it should function.

"They wanted it to be for very wealthy people. Eric saw it as much more angled towards helping Antiguans," said Mr Smit. "It's very close to his heart."

Two years ago, Clapton met Anne Vance, who had left the Betty Ford Clinic and was working with the European Association for Treatment of Addicts (EATA), while he was doing volunteer work at a treatment centre in London. They decided to drop the American corporation and go it alone, the singer putting up the first \$5m with the new US and British foundations to raise future funds.

"We won't just treat the addic-

dent. "We want to improve the

body, mind and spirit with relaxation techniques, massage, acupuncture. nutrition classes. "When I first met Eric, I didn't

recognise him. Then he told me it was his dream to help Antiguans. This is very important to him. He told me 'I want to give back what recovery has given to me, a chance to live again'. "He likes to do his work invisi-

bly. He didn't want to sacrifice his privacy. He kept this top secret for the first couple of years but he had to go public with it for the sake of future funding. He's a very caring person. It's a joy to work with someone who's doing this from the

Laser heart surgery doubts

By Jeremy Laurance Health Eston

DOCTORS in the United States were criticised vesterday for creatin⊆ false hope in desperately ill patients by suggesting a laser gun that drills holes in the heart could offer a lifesaving alternative to heart transplants.

With up to half of patients dving before they can get a heart transplant because of the shortage of donor organs. US researchers claim the technique of punching up to 50 holes in the wall of the heart to improve blood flow to oxygen starved muscle could save lives.

Dr Valluvan Jeevanandam, surgical director of the Heart Transplantation Program at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia. Pennsylvania, said: "This promising new therapy offers an alternative for patients with severe chest pain who may need a heart transplant."

Results of the research were presented at a meeting of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation in Chicago, Illinois.

British specialists said the technique was still undergoing trials and would never help more than a small percentage of heart transplant patients, most of whom suffer from heart failure, which is a dysfunction of the pumping action of the heart. Candidates for the laser are mainly patients with ischaemic heart disease.

A trial of the technique, known as transmyocardial revascularisation, has been completed on 190 patients from Papworth hospital, Cambridge, using the heart laser at the nearby Bupa hospital, and follow up results are due next year. About 20 patients have also been treated at the Royal Brompton hospital, London.

Early indications are that the treatment is effective in most patients but the improvement wears off after one to two years.

Neil Moat, cardiovascular surgeon at the Royal Brompton, said: "Like a lot of new treatments it works to some extent but it needs modifying. I cannot see it having a major impact

A dogged lawyer's lawyer lost in the political jungle

IN THE **NEWS**

KENNETH **STARR**

THE MAN widely regarded as President Bill Clinton's nemesis vesterday intoned a warning that resounded all around Washington. "The end." Kenneth Start told a gaggle of reporters on the steps of the US Court House, "is not in sight."

Thus did Mr Starr, independent prosecutor appointed four years ago to investigate charges of criminal wrongdoing by Mr Clinton, dash hopes that a judicial inquiry was near conclusion.

Mr Starr, 51, a high-flying lawyer with muted Republican credentials, has been elevated to villain-in-chief by the Clinton camp. When Hillary spoke three months ago of the "vast right-wing conspiracy tout to "get" her husband, Mr Starr was one of the first she named.

Since he was named by the Attorney-General Janet Reno, to take over the investigation, he has expanded his brief to include five inquiries and spent \$30m (£18m) of taxpayers' money. A technical investigation into whether Mr Clinton and/or his wife broke the law in relation to the Whitewater land deal in mid-Eighties Arkansas now encompasses charges that Mrs Clinton wrongly dismissed employees of the White House travel office, that the White House misused FBI files, that Mr Clinton "hought" the silence of former employees by resettling them in private-sector jobs, and - finaily - that Mr Clinton perjured himself and suborned perjury after an alleged affair



Among Washington De-

mocrats and sympathetic jour-

nalists, the demonisation of

Mr Starr is well advanced.

Common wisdom is that he is

driven by ideology and hatred

of the Clintons. They note his

previous posts: aide to Presi-

dent Reagan's first attorney-

general, and solicitor-general

for President Bush's Justice

Department. Most recently,

they cite a job offer from

Pepperdine University. Cali-

fornia, one of whose chief

benefactors, the right-winger

Richard Scaife, who commis-

sioned articles from anti-Clin-

sations that the six-month old

job offer - as dean of the uni-

versity's faculties of law and

public policy - represented a

conflict of interest and could

jeopardise his job as inde-

This week, stung by accu-

ton reporters.

with a White House trainee. Mr Starr's pursuit of this last inquiry, the Monica Lewinsky affair, has drawn attention to prosecutorial methods described by his detractors as "bullying" and "psychological torture". He authorised the "wiring" of Ms Lewinsky's confidante, Linda Tripp, to try to record incriminating details of her relationship with Mr Clinton, summonsed Ms. Lewinsky's tearful mother to testify against her daughter, and subpoensed receipts of Ms Lewinsky's purchases from Washington bookshops.

For those looking for evidence of Mr Starr's crusading amitude, there is also Susan McDougal, a key witness in the Whitewater affair, who has been in prison a year for contempt because she refused to testify against the Clintons.

orchestrating a right-wing plot against the Clintons

WORK AND FAMILY

"He's a strong family man. very involved in his church and community. On the other hand, he's capable of doing more work, more conscientiously, than anyone I know." Theodore Olson, friend and former colleague of Kenneth Start.

BAD GUY

The President privately eethes that independent counsel Kenneth Starr is 'a very bad guy' and dangerous'. There's genuine concern, even if it weren't him in the cross hairs ... that Ken Starr represents a danger in American life." Bob Woodward, Washington

pendent prosecutor, Mr Starr made public his letter declining the post. This clumsy public-relations effort by Mr Starr. however, pointed up another side to his character and one cited by those of his defenders who dare to put their heads above the parapet.

Mr Starr, they sav. is a

lawyer's lawyer, dogged, perhaps obsessive in his desire to see the law upheld (by everyone). From the strictly legal point of view. they say - and few disagree - he has barely put a foot wrong. Politically, though, it is another story. If he had set out to convince the nation he was on a right-wing crusade against the President, one reporter said, he could "hardly have outdone his own series of missteps and embar-

rassing revelations." - Mary Dejevsky, Washington

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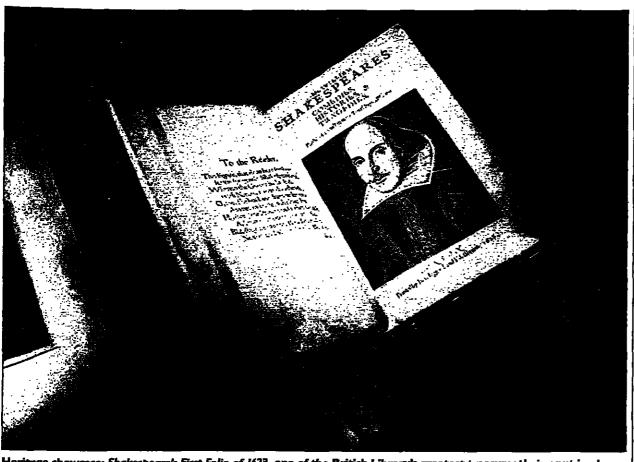
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Heritage showcase: Shakespeare's First Folio of 1623, one of the British Library's greatest treasures, being put in place for the opening on Tuesday 21 April of the new exhibition galleries at St Pancras, London Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Frustration for unions in bid for recognition

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

TUC leader John Monks has asked for an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister amid growing frustration among workers' leaders over plans for a law on union recognition.

Unless Tony Blair this weekend gives some indication that he is prepared to meet Mr. Monks and reveal the Government's intentions, some union "barons" are minded to vent their anger publicly and take advantage of growing onease on the Government's backbenches.

A group of union general secretaries, which has been involved in meetings with ministers, will decide their strategy on Monday before an emergency session of the TUC's ruling general council.

One senior source sugge

ed yesterday that at least one; member of the Government had actively sought to prevent agreement between the TUC and CBI - "the social partners" - on how the law would operate. He said that negotiations between Congress House offi-

cials and their counterparts at the CBI had come to abrupt end last autumn and that renewed attempts to come to an accommodation ended suddenly three weeks ago. The insider believed a ministerial eminence grise had been at work, persuading employers that there was no need to achieve a consensus.

Some union leaders want a "round table discussion" on recognition so that competing interests can thrash out a consensus on the basis of detailed information.

The source, who had been present at the meetings in

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UP TO 45 IN STORE

LIP TO 450 IN STORE

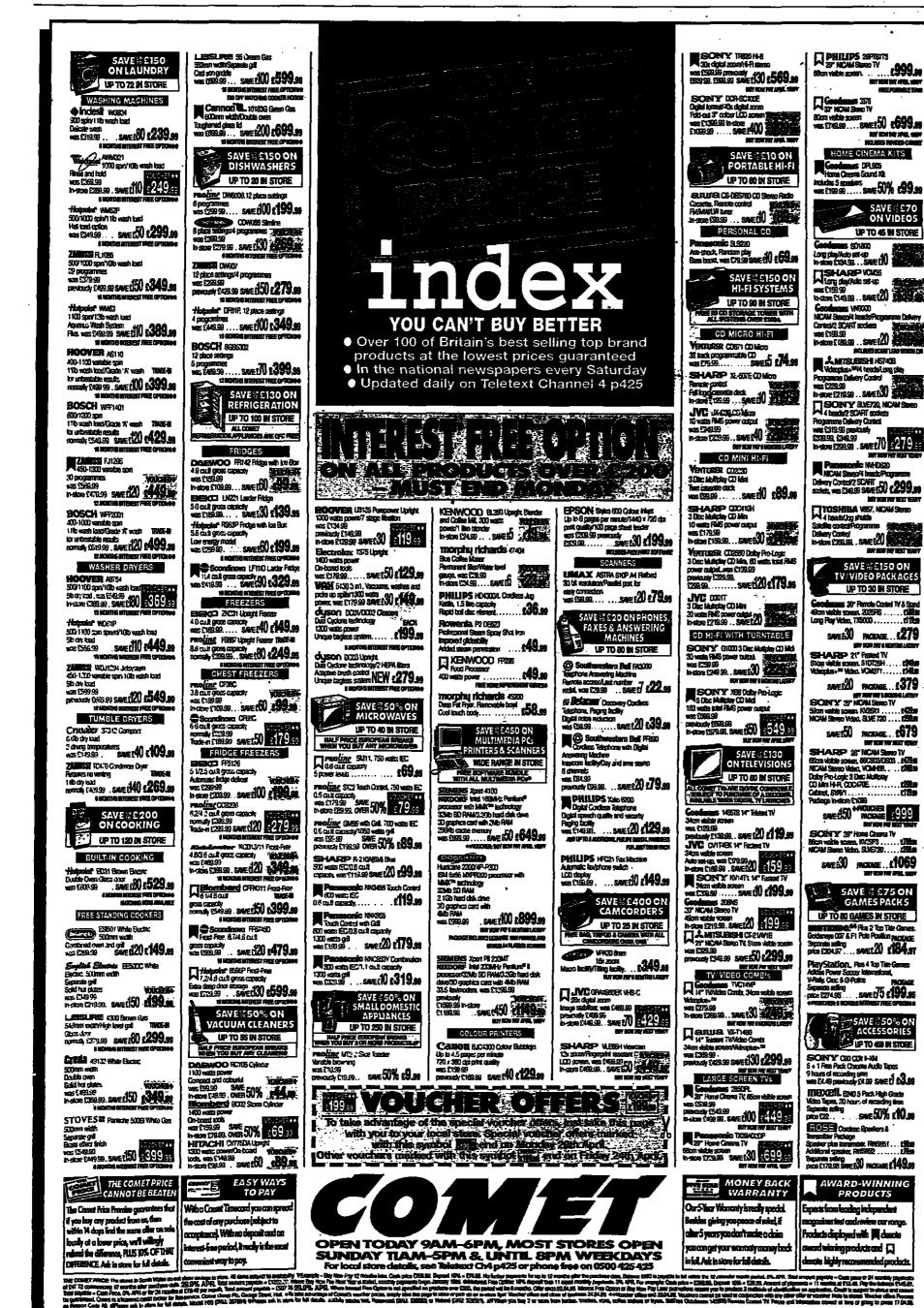
Whitehall, said senior union officials were in a "state of amazement" about how the whole process had been conducted. The last formal discussion with Mr Blair took place on 18 December. Subsequent meetings with the Prime Minister had addressed other issues.

Thus far there have been a series of bilateral meetings involving the TUC, the CBI, the Department of Trade and Industry and Number Ten. However it is known that Mr Blair will make the final decision and on Monday the TUC will seek clarification of his views. One senior union figure

said: "Downing Street keep moving the goalposts. They seem to be treating it as a game. It is very amateurish, although it might suit certain people in the Government to play it that way." Other union general secretaries, including John Edmonds of the GMB general union, will counsel caution on Monday ahead of a meeting with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, later next week, and a likely session with the Prime Minister, possibly the week after.

One of the key debates is over the rules governing ballots on recognition. The CBI contends that it should only be granted when it has been backed by a majority of the whole workforce, but the TUC argues that it should only require a majority of those vot-

ing.
Mr Edmonds is expected to attempt to restrain his more impatient colleagues in a speech to the Scottish TUC on Tuesday. He will point to the fact that the White Paper "Fairness at Work" will deliver on other pledges in Labour's pre-election



Blair attacks 'silly' labelling of female MPs

By Fran Abrams

Political Correspondent

NEW Labour women, lumbered with the less-than-flattering label "Blair's Babes", are suffering from sexist stereotyping, the Prime Minister said

In an interview for Radio 4's Woman's Hour programme, Tony Blair dismissed criticism of the new intake of MPs for being too conformist as "just silly" and claimed that it would never have been levelled at

His remarks followed coments earlier this month by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, who had suggested that some new Labour MPs were "toadying" and that such behaviour would

not win them promotion. The Secretary of State for ty," he said. International Development, Clare Short, subsequently said she had found some Tory backbenchers in the last Parliament "creepy" and was surprised to

find some Labour members now behaving in a similar way.

The "Blair Babes" title - invented by a headline writer when Labour's 101 women MPs posed together for a picture just after the May election - was "infuriating" and "incredibly patronising," the Prime Minister

On the whole, the women were broadly supportive of the Government, he said, but this was "mainly because a lot of them are younger, they are from my generation.

"For years they lived in a Labour Party that protested about this, that and the next thing but couldn't for the life of it ever win power or govern sensibly. They've now got a Labour Party that does that, they basically support it and people call them toadies. Well it's just sil-

"People would never, if a group of men decided to support the Government, say they were doing it because they were cloned," he said.

Woman put on probation for snatching baby

DENISE GIDDINGS, a mother of three children, was placed on probation for three years yesterday for snatching new-born baby Karli Hawthorne.

Giddings, 33, was spared jail after the court heard she had been suffering from severe mental delusions when she took the infant from an Essex hospital in December.

Karli's parents said they had not wanted to see Giddings go to prison. "She needs help," they added. Facing the media at Basildon police station in Essex after hearing the judge's sentence. Karli's father Karl said: "I have got no feelings for her at all." Mr Hawthorne, 41, and Karli's mother, Tania Godfrey, 30, of Pitsea, Basildon, were both near tears as they answered journalists' questions. The couple said they had found it hard to come to terms with their ordeal.

Dead man named in China

THE BRITISH businessman found dead in his flat in Qingdao, north-east China, has been identified as David Earle, an engineer in his fifties.

Mr Earle, from Bramhall, Greater Manchester, is thought to have died of suffocation. He was a contract worker for the British company Cussons which has a large soap factory in Qingdao. Company secretary Alaric McDermott said that Mr Earle, who leaves a widow and two sons, was "killed by robbers during the course of a burglary at his flat just before midnight on April 9".

Driver's fatal drinking binge

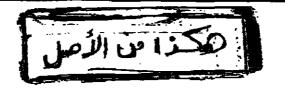
A DRIVER went on a New Year's Eve drinking binge before mowing down a young woman and killing her instantly, a court heard yesterday. Josef Hearne, 20, took his father's Lancia car after a family argument and careered into Lisa Wesbroom and her fiancé who were leaving a pub. Hearne admitted causing death by driving without due care and attention after consuming alcohol above the prescribed limit when he appeared at Oxford Crown Court yesterday.

Top post for telegram boy

A FORMER telegram delivery boy who became a union official in his first week at work at the age of 15 was yesterday elected head of the union representing 250,000 Post Office and BT workers. Derek Hodgson, 57, beat off competition from three rivals to become general secretary of the Communication Workers Union. Mr Hodgson joined the Post Office in Cardiff in 1956 in a temporary job delivery telegrams.

Allied Van Lines

NFC Plc has asked us to point out that employees of its US subsidiary. Allied Van Lines, made a donation of \$200 to the Republican Party through a Political Action Committee in 1995-96 and not \$200,000 as reported in yesterday's Independent.



Bewitching Baebes excommunicated from 'Songs Of Praise'

THE BBC'S Songs Of Praise has banned the top-selling, all-female ensemble The Mediaeval Baebes after reports that the 12-strong group has engaged in white witchcraft.

The Mediaeval Baebes were to have pre-recorded a performance for the programme at St George's Church, Salisbury, this weekend for transmission on 26

Of Praise, Jeremy Kime, has booked a group of choirboys instead Les Malloy, who acts for The Mediaeval Baebes concerning TV and radio appearances, said yesterday: "Jeremy Kime said to me he had . seen reports about white witchcraft and didn't think it would be good publicity for a religious programme to be connected with it. I was very disappoint-

The Mediaeval Baebes were one of a number of groups ap-. proached about possible Songs Of Praise recordings. But it was felt that parts of their repertoire in Latin and Italian weren't conducive to the programme. It wasn't particular-

The programme has an audience of over 5 million, and yesterday a spokesman for the group said: "The group has done the church great service by introducing a wide public to Now the producer of Songs a glorious body of sacred works. Now, it appears that the church's prime TV outlet has made a base and baseless decision to shun The Mediaeval

> The group, who appear in slinky, white dresses as part of their TV and stage act, record 14th-century religious and sec-

Their debut album, Salva Nos, entered the classical al-

programme said yesterday: out of the top five since.

The ensemble, which is drawn from several countries including the UK, are accomplished performers of choral music, but also owe their rapid fame to good looks and a calculated PR campaign in which they took delight in describing ly to do with witchcraft." themselves with such phrases as "shameless harlots", "hard-

core, full-on, Anglo-Saxon acid-mead mistresses of the Middle Ages music scene"; and the girls who "put the E into Early Music." Three of the Baebes are white witches. One of the

Baebes, Rachel Van Asch, not a white witch berself, but interested in quantum physics and known as Quantum Baebe, said yesterday: "We are all interested in strange forces. Some of the Baebes do have an interest in healing and divination.

"There's nothing wrong with white witchcraft. We believe in tolerance and open-



White-out: The Mediaeval Baebes, who style themselves as 'shameless harlots' and 'hard-core. fulf-on. Anglo-Saxon acid-mead mistresses', have been banned from Songs of Praise over reports of their enthusiasm for white witchcraft

> Photographi Rev Features

war put on probably

THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH

Marching baby

air attacks Mandelson lly' labellin admits female Mi slip-up in spinning

Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S spin-doctors "let the side down" in allowing Bernie Ecclestone's £1m donation to become a big story in the press, Peter Mandelson says this weekend.

In an apparent admission that the arch spin-doctor himself had made a rare slip-up, he suggested that Labour spokespeople had not acted quickly enough. On the other hand, his words could also be read as criticism of the press colleagues of the minister without portfolio.

In a documentary on Tony Blair's first year in power, Mr Mandelson worried that his party's famous spin-doctors did not work hard enough to keep the furore off the front pages. In the same programme, Channel 4's Blair's Year which will be shown tomorrow evening, frictions between Mr Mandelson and the Deputy Prime Minister became apparent. Mr Prescott admitted that the spin-doctors' role was leading to "tensions".

Asked about the Ecclestone affair, when the party was forced to return a donation after the government bowed to lobbying by the Formula One boss over a ban on tobacco sponsorship, Mr Mandelson suggested Labour spokesmen had not acted quickly enough.

"I think in a very real sense your celebrated spin-doctors, your media managers and all these people, in a sense we let the side down," he said.

Because the party had to consult Lord Neill, the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and to ask

Mr Ecclestone whether he was willing to have his donation disclosed, the process had been slow, he suggested. In the meantime, the press had begun to feel that something was being held back from them.

In the film, Mr Prescott, said that at first Labour had operated as it had in opposition. "Make no mistake, this is creating certain problems. Spindoctoring is about putting a political message to what might be a departmental one, and that's created tensions," he said.

John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, used the documentary to attack Labour's attempts to weaken its links with the unions. The party had turned to business donors instead but they tended to demand more in return, he said. The unions has donated £100m to Labour since 1979, but now gives less than half Labour's annual income

"We did note with some wry amusement that if you get inmunity ... they want something for their money. I think it arouses a lot more controversy than trade union money to the Labour Party ever did," he said.

The programme also high-

lighted an apparent difference between Mr Prescott and Robin Cook over proportional representation, with differing interpretations of Tony Blair's comment that he was "not persuaded" of the need for change. The Foreign Secretary suggested Mr Blair had a positive attitude to PR, while Mr Prescott commented: "The Prime Minister's said he's against proportional representation.

Every day, we faith in something EVERY DAY, 35 MILLION PEOPLE PUT THE Our typnifes. Our heath. Our homes. Our property. Our money. These things me important to people the similaries license. the engineering out beare. For ever 200 years, ANA companies han hacabelining stegunid awapic's functe. Today we te one

DAILY POEM

From 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol'

By Oscar Wilde

With sudden shock the prison-clock Smote on the shivering air. And from all the gaol rose up a wail Of impotent despair. Like the sound that frightened marshes hear From some leper in his lair.

And as one sees most fearful things In the crystal of a dream, We saw the greasy hompen rope Hooked to the blackened beam, And heard the prayer the hangman's snare Strangled into a scream.

And all the woe that moved him so That he gave that bitter cry. And the wild regrets, and the bloody sweats, None knew so well as I: For he who lives more lives than one More deaths than one must die.

This is our final selection from the expanded edition of the Penguin Classics anthology Poetry of the 1890s (Penguin, £8.99). edited by R K R Thornton and Marion Thain. Wilde published his Ballad in 1898, the year after his release:

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Ripper fans take stab at naming evil Jack

By Kim Sengupta

THE VENUE is the Friendy Hotel in the suburb of Bowthorpe. in peaceful Norwich. Ninety men and women were discussing murder, disembowelment, Freemasoury and the royal family. Among those due to be taking part was Jeremy Beadle.

To outsiders it may seem surreal but for delegates at the seminar it is deadly serious: after three days of wading through bodies, gore and entrails, they hope to be closer to identifying Jack The Ripper.

In the process, it is predicted, backs will be stabbed, Ripperology reputations slashed to bits and red herrings netted and disposed of. Others attending will be Donald Rumbelow, author of The Complete Jack The Ripper, and Nick Warren, editor of the magazine Ripperama, through which enthusiasts can keep abreast of sightings of the latest theories for £6 a year. Rosemarie Howell, an organiser of the conference. says: This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are a lot of people fascinated by the subject; there is huge worldwide interest in Jack The Ripper."

Those attending are a cross-section of ages and sexes. Some are said to be embarrassed about their obsession and can only be frank among kindred spirits.

The Ripper is believed to have committed five murders between August and November 1888 in the East End of London. The victims, prostitutes, had their throats slashed and were mutilated.

Suspects and motives were thrown up, ranging from demented reformers who wanted to highlight deprivation in the slums of the capital, to a conspiracy embracing the government. Freemasons and the then royal physician. This scenario, presented

by Stephen Knight in his book Jack The Ripper: The Final Solution, involved Queen Victoria's grandson. Albert, heir-presumptive to the throne, fathering a child by a Catholic commoner. Four titutes found out and tried



The Duke of Clarence, another possible Ripper candidate

The Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, turned to the royal physician and fellow Mason Sir William Gull, who killed the blackmailers, a fifth victim being mistaken identity. The from prostitutes. mutilations carried out were

according to Masonic rituals. The Salisbury-Gull conspiracy theory has been attacked by other experts, including Mr Rumbelow and Donald McCormick. Rival claimants to the Jack The

member of the royal family, the Duke of Clarence, Aaron Kosminski, a Polish Jew, and an unholsterer, James Kelly, both of whom got syphilis.

In 1993 the author Shirley Harrison said she had found the diaries of the Ripper, who was an arsenic-addicted Liverrool cotton merchant called James Maybrick. It was "the completely spontaneous outpouring of someone going to blackmail the government. Ripper title include another through hell." Brian May- reveals all.

testers promised to remain un-

til Cooke was moved. One of

the protesters, mother Lisa

Ayris, 38, said: "We don't just

want him out of here... I would

like to see him locked up

London Today programme claimed that a cell block at

Cheshunt police station in

Hertfordshire, which is just

Cooke: moved out of

London police station

within the Met's area, was be-

ing refurbished, possibly to

hold Cooke. The Met police

then issued a denial that there

were any plans to move him.

rector of the Penal Reform

Consortium, said he hoped that

Cooke had been moved to a se-

cure hospital. "He needs some-

where secure and supervised in

order to protect the public and

to protect him from vigilante at-

tacks," he said. But as a free

man, Cooke is entitled to ignore

police advice and demand to go

wherever he likes, although he

Yesterday Paul Cavadino, di-

Last week Carlton TV's

again.

Photograph: Hulton Getty

brick, a descendent of the alleged Ripper, said: "We always knew James Maybrick was the black sheep of the family, but we never knew it was anything like this." He need not have worried overmuch: the diaries were dismissed as a hoax. So the search goes on.

Maybrick may not have been The Ripper but those at Norwich will appreciate the family motto he adopted: Tempus omnia revelut - Time

Paxman shortlisted

TELEVISION interviewer Jeremy Paxman's grilling of a Government minister in which he asked the same question 14 times has been shortlisted for a major award, it emerged yesterday.

The broadcaster repeatedly pressed Michael Howard. Home Secretary at the time, on BBC2's Newsnight.

The interview has now been nominated in the interview of the year category for the Royal Television Society's Television. Sports and Journalism Awards.

It is up against two other BBC entries: David Dimbleby's pre-election Panorama interview with Tony Blair and John Humphrys' quizzing of the Prime Minister in On The Record about the furore surrounding tobacco advertising in Grand Prix racing.

The Paxman interview was even praised by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture. whose department is responsible for media matters, saying the presenter was "at his quizzical best" during the interview. In the television journalist of

the year award category, BBC reporters Denis Murray and Ben Brown have made the shortlist, along with ITN's Michael Brunson. For the news event award

ITN. BBC and Sky News have been nominated for their coverage of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Ewen Murray and Bruce

Critchley (BSkvB), Richie Benaud (BBC) and Murray Walker and Martin Brundle (MACH 1 for ITV network) have been selected in the sports commentator category. The Awards ceremony takes

place on 14 May.

Persistent Child killer seeks safety in new unit

By Ian Burrell

CHILD killer Sidney Cooke has been moved out of the London police station where he has been held since his release from prison ten days ago, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

A spokesman said he was no longer the responsibility of the Metropolitan police service". He refused to say where Cooke had been taken, but sources indicated he would be held by another police force for the time being.

The paedophile has asked to be held in a secure unit for his own protection, like another member of his child abuse gang, Robert Oliver, who is staying at a private unit in Milton Keynes, which said yesterday it would not be taking Cooke as

Cooke, who celebrates his 71st birthday today, was released on 6 April after serving nine years of a 16-year term for the manslaughter of teenage runaway Jason Swift. When the Met took Cooke

into one of their stations thought to be Leman Street in east London - they said he would be held there until "suitable long-term" accommodation could be found. They emphasised that a police station was not seen as suitable.

But crowds of protestors have gathered outside the Leman Street station, which is used as a base for traffic wardens and is close to a primary school.

A sign saying "paedophile protector" was hung over the station's nameplate and proLottery show 'faces axe'

> By Paul McCann Media Editor

THE BBC faces the embarrassment of radically revamping its controversial National Lottery scratchcard show after poor ratings and a fall in scratchcard sales.

The BBC attracted criticism from MPs and the culture, media and sport select committee chairman Gerald Kautman for appearing to encourage scratchcard sales when it unveiled its Big Ticket show. To get on the show or to play at home the public needed to buy a TV Dreams scratchcard.

Now there are persistent rumours emerging from the Corporation that the format of the show is to be changed and that some executives would even like to see it axed. A spokeswoman said yesterday: "We don't have any plans to axe the show. But it is a live show and we are always looking at the format of it to see what works."

Last week's show, the third Big Ticket, attracted an audience of 7.2m viewers, well down on the old-style programme's heyday when it regularly attracted audiences over 10m.

The BBC and Camelot have suffered an onslaught of bad publicity over the Big Ticket. This week it was discovered that scratchcard sales had actually fallen to their lowest ever despite the show and advertising campaign.

There have also been stories of the studio audience for the show walking out bored because of the length of the recording, making the cameras move around the remaining audience so the studio will look full would be under surveillance. on screen,

on B. no-fr But with the

Sno'



er

il Jack Snow surgery is cure for doctor's peak obsession

DR SUNDEEP had professional duties again this morning, filling three more slits in my fingers with Super Glue and then seeking out a couple of Sherpas with chesty coughs to whom he wanted to lend a stethoscope. Aged 28. Sundeep Dhillon aims to become the youngest person to stand on the highest summiton each of the seven continents. Everest will complete his tally. But he wears this personal ambition lightly and as a climber, medic and our most computer-

of a team player. A doctor may not be a legal requirement for an Everest expedition, but it is certainly a comfort to have one along. Sundeep had to dose people with gut infections and viruses on the trek in, and earlier this week may have set some sort of . dead. record when he had to perform a tricky piece of dentistry kneeling in the snow at Camp One, just above the Khumbu Icefall.

Both Sundeep, doing only his third dental operation, and Rob Owen, now recovered. wondered whether a tooth had been filled at an altitude of more than 6,000m before.

Turning to my fraying finger ends, some of the bloody slits that have occurred as a result of the dry mountain air have ealed, but three more have had to be subject to the standard treatment - Super Glue in the slit, squeeze it tight, then bind

Sundeep is a doctor with 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, part of the Royal Army Medical Corps, celebrating its cen-

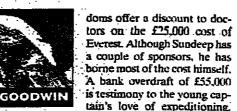


Base Camp

tenary this year. Apart from our guides, he is probably the most experienced of our Himalayan Kingdoms team and in 1996 got within 500m of the summit of Everest, climbing from the Tibetan side. It was a season of tragedy on the mountain and one female friend of Sundeep cried for three days fearing that the doctor was among the

In fact, tragedy really brought Sundeep to mountaineering. Both his Indianborn parents died when he was 13 years old. A teacher suggested he go hill walking, and despite the dismissive comments of friends who said he would see nothing but rain and mist, the boy took to it. "They were right about the rain, but it allowed me to escape from

Exploration vied with medicine at Oxford where his dean, Professor John Leadingham, told him, "well, you can keep going away so long as you keep coming back and passing



tors on the £25,000 cost of Everest. Although Sundeep has a couple of sponsors, he has borne most of the cost himself. A bank overdraft of £55,000 is testimony to the young captain's love of expeditioning. He finds no conflict between his own ambitions on the mountain and being a doctor, even when the person in need might be on another team or, as in 1996, a yak-man with a

who can divorce themselves from it and say for the next three months I'm not on call, but even without the discount I feel a moral obligation to do what I can," he said.

There are some doctors

badly burnt foot.

Sundeep, put together a medical kit filling a 60-litre harrel and a large chest. He has liaised with doctors and medical a lump of rock."

ensure that vital equipment is sensibly distributed between the camps up the mountain.

Besides our immediate health, he also keeps a close eye on our "group dynamics". I suppose we all do, but it is a sensitive subject. There are people here who haven't got a chance and there are people who are so highly driven that it scares me." Sundeep certainly does not put me in the latter

"The test of us are fully determined to stand on the top, my own developing intentions. "But the summit party will selfselect and it is in the interests of the team that those who aren't going to make it are honest with themselves. When it comes to decision time, it is just



Cold comfort: The expedition's doctor, Sundeep Dhillon, carrying out emergency dental work on Rob Owen just above the Khumbu icefall, at 6,000m Photograph: Taken by Stephen Goodwin with a Fuji DS300 digital carners

Virgin takes on BA in no-frills fight

Transport Correspondent

RICHARD BRANSON'S lowcost European airline, Virgin Express, is set to take on British Airways by launching head-tohead services competing with Go, BA's no-frills carrier.

Virgin Express will begin by launching flights from Stansted airport in Essex to Rome. Milan and Madrid via Brussels for £49 one-way. Go, which also flies from Stansted, operates direct to the same Italian destinations from £100 return.

Mr Branson's airline is also set to buy Sabre Airways, a small Gatwick-based charter carrier. for from this month. This will be used to launch another cutprice service, Virgin Sun, which will carry sun-seekers three times a day to Mediterranean destinations such as Creté.

The new Virgin services from Stansted will be run jointy with Sahena, Belgium's state airline. Starting on 17 May, passengers can take three flights a day to Brussels where connecting flights can take travellers on to European destinations.

"The fares are only slightly cheaper than Go's but with BA's operation you have to book a return," said Will Whitehorn, a director of Virgin Group.

However, a spokesman for Go said its customers were different to Virgin's "They are talking about changing at Brussels, we are offering direct turn-up-and-go travel."

The war is set to escalate as Virgin Express is likely to move pany's growth. Other airports that might also be used by Virgin to fly to the Continent include Glasgow, Manchester

now worth \$25 (on the American stock exchange), up from an initial floatation price of \$15.

Europe have seen an upprecedented scramble for destinations by low-cost carriers. After the hanch of Go earlier this month, KLM UK, which also operates from Stansted, started a £79

EasyJet, which operates from Luton, has been so incensed by BA's move that it has lodged a High Court writ against the former state airline. James Rothnie. however, a spokesman for EasyJet, welcomed Virgin's arrival. "Virgin Express is not a dominant player and will not distort the market," he said.

its entire operations to Stansted from Belgium if union disputes and high operating costs continue to hamper the com-

and Birmingham. Many people mocked Mr. Branson's plan to offer cheap fares in Europe, but he has been proved spectacularly right. Virgin Express now has 21 planes - having started with only 6 and shares in the carrier are

The deregulated skies over Saver fare to Milan.

Southall train crash driver charged

A MANSLAUGHTER charge was yesterday brought against the driver of the passenger train involved in the Southall rail crash in which seven people died.

Larry Harrison, 51, was at the controls of the Swansea-London express train which collided with an empty freight train in west London on 19 September last year.

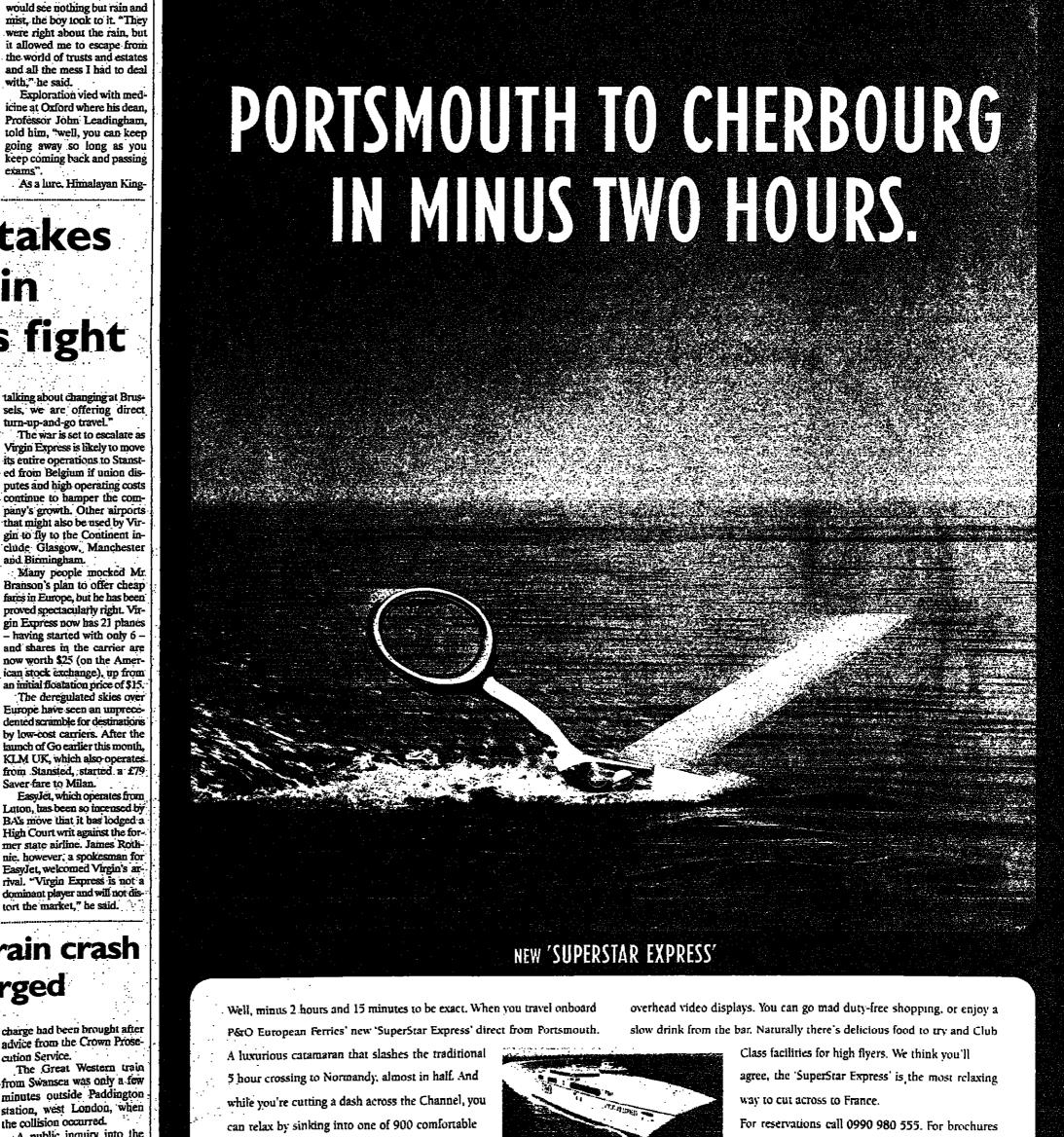
He will appear at Ealing magistrates court in west London on 27 May. British Transport Police said.

Mr Harrison was on police bail for some months, although no charges had been bought until yesterday. British Transport Police said the manslaughter charge had been brought after advice from the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Great Western train from Swansea was only a few minutes outside Paddington station, west London, when the collision occurred.

A public inquiry into the crash, in which more than 150 people were injured, was opened in February. But it was adjourned because of possible legal action.

Lew Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union Aslef said he was "surprised and dismayed" at the charge. The union is to support the driver throughout the legal action.



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9/NEWS

A brush with the law for artist selling sex

IT STARTED with a media frenzy and the strong suspicion of an tacky, elaborate hoar. By yesterday afternoon the orgamisers of an 'art for sex' exhibition looked to have attracted as much attention as they wanted. And then perhaps a little too much, as they were warned they could be facing heavy fines or imprisonment.

The delightfully entitled "Fuckart and Pimp" took place at the Decima Gallery where "artist" Angela Marshall intended to allow people in one at a time as she painted. The resulting "art" was to be consummated before Ms Marshall would sell it. A small picture was £25 plus the small matter of some oral sex, a medium one was £50 plus straight sex and for £75 it was a large painting and "anything kinky"

At the gallery in an unlikefluttered her eyelashes and preened for the cameras as the phone rang non-stop with calls from across Europe, Media men (they were mostly men) jostled for position in the tiny gallery, but there were no

One of the few non-media types, known only as Nick, had come not to take part but to



positioned nearby.

on. He reported that the cou-

with further details. Ten minutes

watch through a peep hole for He paid £50 in cash and disap-£5. "I am doing social studies at Poly and I want to see what this is all about," he said.

... Ms Marshall insisted she was "totally up for it" and appeared to be revelling in all the attention from the press. But as the punters stayed away it began to look increasingly like a scam to fool the newspapers.

Alex Chappel, the curator of ly south east London location Decima, denied it was a hoax. early yesterday, Ms Marshall His protests were undermined somewhat by the fact that he has previously organised two other escapades designed to fool the press. Yesterday he insisted his latest enterprise was real and complained that the media were scaring off clients.

But just as everyone was giving up hope of anything happening, along came Mark Childs, buying for a collector. league were undercover officers from Southwark Council.

Mr Chappel was warned that he was committing an offence under the 1982 Miscellaneous Provisions Act - put simply he was running a sex encounters venue without a licence. "We warned them that they were committing an offence and told them we would keep an eye on them and it is possible that legal proceedings will follow," the official said.

Meanwhile. Ms Marshall and Mr Childs emerged. "We peared into the gallery where have art" she declared bran-Ms Marshall was waiting on a dishing a canvas covered in dirty mattress with an easel uninspiring scribbles and daubed with the somewhat 'Nick", meanwhile, looked telling slogan, "media e** "s".

Whatever the truth of the ple appeared to be having sex. matter only one question re-He then ran off, refusing to part mained as an incongruous sense of anti-climax settled over those later he reappeared with anleft behind - was it Art?



contract which drew the attention of officials from Southwark council (above left).

Two child prisoners guarded by 100 staff

ONE hundred staff turned up for work yesterday for the opening of a controversial child days work a month. prison - and look after just two young tearzways, the Home local youth offending teams Office said.

try's first secure training cen- in fighting juvenile crime. It will tre but it has already provoked also highlight ways of cutting fears that the £2,500-a-week delays in dealing with young regime will simply create a criminals. The board, due to be "college of crime".

will eventually bouse up to 40_

opened for business, the Hôme Office launched a search for ad-

The Youth Justice Board of England and Wales will adviseon nationwide programmes to resentment leading to disafcut offending by young people. fection throughout adoles-The chair will get up to £48,000 a year for a three-day

week and the other 11 members will be paid £136 a day for three

The board will help set up which will co-ordinate the work Medway in Kent is the coun- of police and local authorities _ up and running by October, will The centre, run by Group 4. cost £1m a year to run.

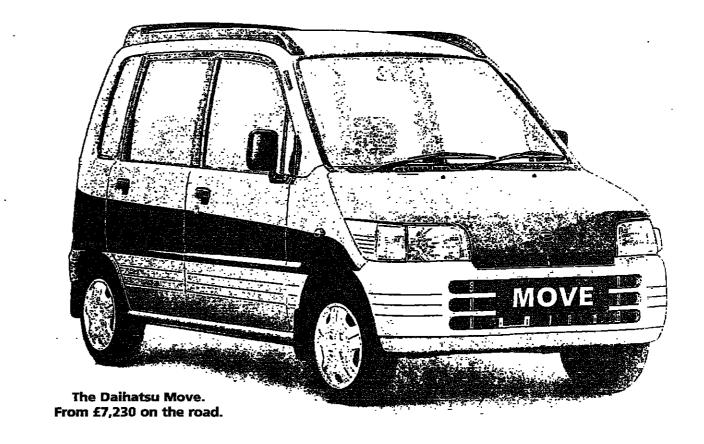
Meanwhile, social workers "trainees" - aged between 12 and probation officers working tween three months and a year. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary Ironically, as the unit to end the "madness" of the new secure training centres.

The National Association visers to help ensure it stays for Youth Justice said conditions at Medway STC would

"make difficult children worse "They will breed anger and cence," warned committee member Charles Bell.

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UK plutonium stocks doubled in last decade

Folitical Correspondent

PLUTONIUM stocks in Britain have doubled in the past 10 years, an analysis of official figures has revealed. While imports of the radioactive substance have averaged around 2,000 kilograms a year, exports stand at just 200kg a year.

The revelation will cause new fears at a time when pressure is growing on the Government to decide on the future of its nuclear material stores.

One of the last acts of the Conservative government was to cancel plans for a huge underground repository at Sellafield in Cumbria. Although a House of Lords committee is investigating the nuclear waste problem as part of a defence review. there have been few indications of how this government intends

to tackle the problem. Figures compiled by Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, show that while Britain held 48.5 tonnes of plutonium on 31 March 1988, it held 96.5 tonnes on the same date in 1997. "We are building a plutonium mountain ... he

strategy and it is irresponsible in the extreme to continue to accumulate just about the most dangerous substance on earth in these quantities," he said.

Much of the plutonium is processed at Sellafield, British Nuclear Fuels Limited has applied for a licence to start a £300m factory which would turn the reprocessed plutonium into nuclear fuel.

Most of Britain's civil stock of plutonium is held behind razor wire in a bunker at Sellafield, along with some of the military stock. The rest of the military plutonium is held at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston. A recent report compiled by a Labour MP and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament predicted that Aldermaston would run out of space to store radioactive byproducts from the Trident nuclear programme by 2002.

At Westminster, 136 MPs have signed an Early Day Motion expressing concern at the increasing stockpiles of plutonium in the UK and around the world. Britain needs a clear policy on how to deal with the

said. "There seems to be no material, it argues, calling for a full public debate on the potential health, environment and proliferation risks posed by the stockpile.

William Peden, parliamentary officer of CND, echoed the demand. The figures published by the Government only covered the civil stockpile, he said: "The big, unanswered question is how much military stockpile the Government has."

A spokesman for BNFL said that since 1976 all its reprocessing contracts with overseas customers had specified that the materials would be sent back. However, some of the operations took several years. "It is not as if this material

is just going to stay here." he said. "The plutonium that is stored can be stored safely. A recent report by the Royal Society said we did that very well." A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said it was up to the owners

tric, British Energy and BNFL, to choose how to manage it. "Stocks of plutonium ... all need to be safely and securely stored and used," he said.

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Art attack: Top graffiti artist Pulse, right, in front of a recent piece of work at the Acklam adventure playground under the Westway in north Kensington, London. With the help of seven other artists the work was completed in 20 hours

Policewoman's killer sent to Rampton

THE KILLER of policewoman Nina Mackay was yesterday sent indefinitely to Rampton top security mental hospital by a judge at the Old Bailey.

Magdi Elgizouli, 30, a paranoid schizophrenic, had pleaded not guilty to the murder of 25-year-old PC Mackay in October last year, but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. PC Mackay, from Essex,

was stabbed as she and colleagues went to arrest Elgizouli, who is unemployed, at a flat in Stratford, east London. She was taken to hospital

after being wounded but died despite a desperate fight to save her. The young officer had served with the Metropolitan force for five years.

PC Mackay and other colleagues forced entry into the premises as part of a police operation to arrest the defendant, who was in breach of bail conditions.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney QC, in sentencing the defendant, told him: "Magdi Elgizouli, you have pleaded guilty to causing the death of a very promising young police officer whom everyone has spoken with pride and affection.

"If you are beginning to realise what it is you have done then you will indeed be feeling great remorse."

The judge made an order that the defendant be detained and treated at Rampton and a

further order restricting his discharge without limit of time. Flanked by five security of-

ficers and dressed in a striped shirt, Elgizouli stood impassively in the dock as the judge made his orders. Members of his victim's

family sat in the public gallery. The judge told Elgizouli: "At the time when you did it, all the

Nina Mackay: Promising young police officer

evidence shows that you were suffering from a disease of the mind, that you had paranoid schizophrenia and have suffered from that illness for a very

You were in a position where it depended on you. alone to take the medication that was prescribed and you did not take it because part of the

effect of the disease was that

you could not realise that you were indeed a very ill man."

sins of delik

He added: "All the doctors who have reported are unanimous, both as to your condition and as to the way in which it should now be treated.

"It can only be treated in a very secure hospital, and accommodation is available at Rampton. That being said I shall make an order under section 37 of the Mental Health Act that you be detained and treated at Rampton Hospital and a further order under section 41 of the Act restricting your discharge without limit of

"It will, in the first place, be up to the doctors to determine when and if it is safe for you to be discharged and then either for [government] or a tribunal to determine when you should be discharged.

"The court has no control over that. The court can only draw attention to the very considerable history here and to the obvious need for the utmost

The victim's father, who lives in Loughton, Essex, and spent 35 years in the police force, said: "Her death was needless. She was only doing

He added: "I wanted her to do something else but she was a very determined young lady. I always feared for her life after she enlisted. She joined the police because of the chal-

Gamekeeper turns poacher as BBC man plots Auntie's abolition

By David Walker

A BBC economics correspondent, given time off to write a book, has repaid the favour by producing a blueprint for the corporation's abolition, identifying it as part of the "Leviathan" of big government

In Public Spending, to be published next month under the imprimatur of the free-market think tank the Social Market Foundation (SMF), the economics specialist Evan Davis frequently to be seen on the Newsmight on BBC2 - says the BBC will soon have to "face its reckoning". He hints that the programme of internal reforms by John Birt, the director-general, has been self-defeating and argues strongly for pay-per-view funding for television.

"We require fairly compelling new arguments for the maintenance of a licence-fee system that was introduced in a completely different age," Mr Davis writes. "Technology

is providing a good reason for collective finance through taxation to diminish."

Mr Davis also tempts fate by wondering aloud whether the BBC should be allowed to lobby the Government on broadcasting policy. "If the BBC," he writes, "knows more about broadcasting than the rest of us, it is justified in informing us of policy changes. Yet yielding to [its] opinion involves subvert-

ing the national interest." BBC rules state that its correspondents should not engage in outside activities which call into question their editorial impartiality. Mr Davis said his book was "intellectual, not tubthumping" and denied that the SMF was right-wing. Its chair is, however, the Tory peer Lord Skidelsky and in his introduction Mr Davis credits Danny Filkenstein, former director of the SMF and now head of the research department at Conservative Central Office.

Among economics specialists

Mr Davis is renowned for his high intelligence but also for his ideological standpoint. The contrast he uses in the new book between those who use economic logic and those "who are simply morally highly strung" is considered typical.

The SMF attracted controversy two years ago when it accused BBC Radio 4's Today programme of conniving with advocates of extra public spending. Its "study" was enthusiastically taken up by the Tories.

For Mr Davis, public spending is too big, badly organised and likely to corrupt the functioning of free markets. The National Health Service should be dismembered if not privatised, councils restricted to providing parks and maintaining roads and vouchers introduced for parents of school-age children. Advocates of the renationalisation of railways are severely reproved - aversion to profitmaking by privatised rail companies make no sense, he says.

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Front to stand by cash sweetener for French babies

MUNICIPAL officials in a French town controlled by the anti-immigrant National Front yesterday said they planned to carry on paying cash bonuses to native French and European Union couples who have a baby, in spite of the fact that such payments have been declared illegal by a court.

The administrative court in Marseilles said the 5,000-franc (about £500) bonus, aimed at encouraging childbirth but openly discriminating against non-Europeans, was illegal as it broke a constitutional principle that recipients of state aid must receive equal treatment.

The Movement Against Racism (MRAP), which had challenged the legality of the bonus offered by Vitrolles mayor Catherine Mégret, welcomed the court ruling. It described the bonus as "a shameful and humiliating embezziement of taxes" and said the court's decision showed the National Front's policy of "national preference" was illegal and called into question the legality of the party itself. So far about 30 families have received the money.

One bonus has been returned because the family received unwelcome publicity, said a spokeswoman for the mayor's office. The payments would French families, and which demoncontinue while the town hall appealed, she added.

Mrs Mégret pledged an immediate fightback against the court decision. "We deplore the decision of the administrative tribunal of Marseilles which has ruled against our de-

Chirac poll reform targets far right

IN A move partly designed to weaken the power of the National Front, especially at a local level, President Jacques Chirac sug-gested on Thursday that deputies be elected to the European Parliament in regional constituencies rather than nationwide.

Like many of the centre-right, Mr Chirac is fearful of a strong showing by the NF in next year's European elections. Under the current proportional representation system, MPs are elected on nationwide lists decided by party headquarters. But Mr Chirac's reasoning is that the strong local and regional infrastructure of the mainstream centre-right will allow its parties successfully to promote local men and women to the detriment of the extreme-right.

A move towards electing Euro-MPs by regional constituencies would allow the centre-right local party activists to promote locallyknown faces, thus hopefully eclipsing the extreme-right.

cision to create a birth bonus for strates that apparently France can no longer support its [own] people," she said in a statement. "This situation is even more scandalous because at the same time foreigners are benefiting from benefits which are for-

illegal immigrants who are allocated a ticket home. The municipality of Vitrolles does not accept this decision and will be appealing against it. in pursuit of its fight to defend French families."

The NF controls four town halls in southern France. It advocates sending Arab and African immigrants "home" and wants to amend the constitution in order to give preference to French citizens in jobs. housing and other state benefits.

The birth bonus was introduced last January. At the time, Mrs Mégret's husband Bruno, deputy national leader of the far-right party, described the "national preference measure" as a patriotic act.

The purpose of this measure is to try to help French families at a time when the government is penalising them and to encourage French births in order to ensure more harmony," he told journalists.

Bruno Mégret is widely viewed as the power behind the scenes of Vitrolles, a puppet-master pulling his wife's strings. He is considered the mostly likely successor to the party's ageing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. The party's actions in Vitrolles are seen as a testing ground for their policies.

Since the NF took power in Vitrolles, it has closed down Submarine, a city-funded music cafe which became a focus for anti-NF activity, and has renamed streets and squares formerly named for François Mitterrand and Nelson Mandela.

Front officials in the other towns it controls have also installed rightbidden to the French, including wing literature in public libraries.



White child: Bruno Mégret (left), deputy leader of the National Front, in February hands over a 5,000franc bonus to a couple who have had a baby. The policy has been declared illegal Photograph: AFP/Georges

Turin braces for Shroud millions

By Anne Hanley

m Tuna THE DOORS of Turin cathe-

dral - temporarily closed for last minute preparations - will reopen tomorrow to allow 4.690 people per hour a two-minute. squint at what many Cathorics venerate as Christianity's holiest relic and what many scientists consider a brilliam. inexplicable medieval fake.

The Turin shroud, the piece of linen long believed to have been wrapped around Jesus's body after the crucifixion, goes back on show in the cathedral after 20 years spent folded in its jewel-studded casket.

In a two month "exposition". 2 million people are expected to file past the shroud. which is housed in an explosion proof glass case.

The Turin diocese has sunk 8.5 billion (£2.8m) lira into organisation and shroud-related events. Italian State Rollways are offering out-price shroud packages.

And all for a piece of linen which even the Catholic church has admitted is of questionable

From unquestioned object of veneration, the shroud was relegated in 1988 to the lowly status of mediaeval scam when Carbon-14 tests dated it to between 1260 and 1390. Down but not out, the shroud's champions fought back, and soon succeeded in reinstating it to a noble place in popular mythology: the shroud was hailed not only as Christ's winding sheet, but as a sacred relic under attack.

The Catholic church has wisely remained above the fray. Which is not to say that it is not prepared to reward those who make the trip. Catholic women. for example, who have earned themselves de facto excommunication by having abortions. can wine the state clean with a trip to Turin.

Booking is free but obligatory. Phone 0800 967 951 Tomorrow in the loS: the first of 2 million file past

Sins of delinquent children could be visited on France's parents

teenager's room could prove mit crimes. It follows media recostly for French parents who ports on rising juvenile crime: fail to ask where it came from, in Seine-St-Denis, a poor Paris they could not have afforded. writes Adam Lebor.

by two Socialist MPs, calls for port's authors, said parents been a rash of shootings or ac-

THE mysterious video-recorder parents to be prosecuted if could be convicted of receiving that suddenly appears in a their children consistently comstolen goods and thus liable to suburb, 27 per cent of crimes

jail if they did nothing about their children possessing goods

The MPs also suggest crack-A government-commis- last year were by minors. Chris- ing down on parents with unausioned report on juvenile crime, time Lazerges, one of the re- thorised weapons. There has

The 135 suggested measures • ness or omission, parents in the report include cutting abdicate responsibility and wash family allowances to parents their hands of what their chilseen to be failing to use the money for their children's welfare, or if the children played Balduyck. However, many mag- of whom are already in social

dren are doing," said the co-au-

cidents by children taking periods. "We must end the sit- said they feared parents of unweapons from home to school. uation whereby, through lazi- ruly children could be unjustly persecuted if the recommendations were implemented and they warned that such measures would only add to the difficulthor of the report, Jean-Pierre ties of families concerned, many truant repeatedly and for long istrates specialising in minors and economic difficulty.

The report also calls for the creation of 500 posts of youth educators and instructors, a doubling of magistrates of the public prosecutors office who specialise in children and more community policing and more residential centres for child of-



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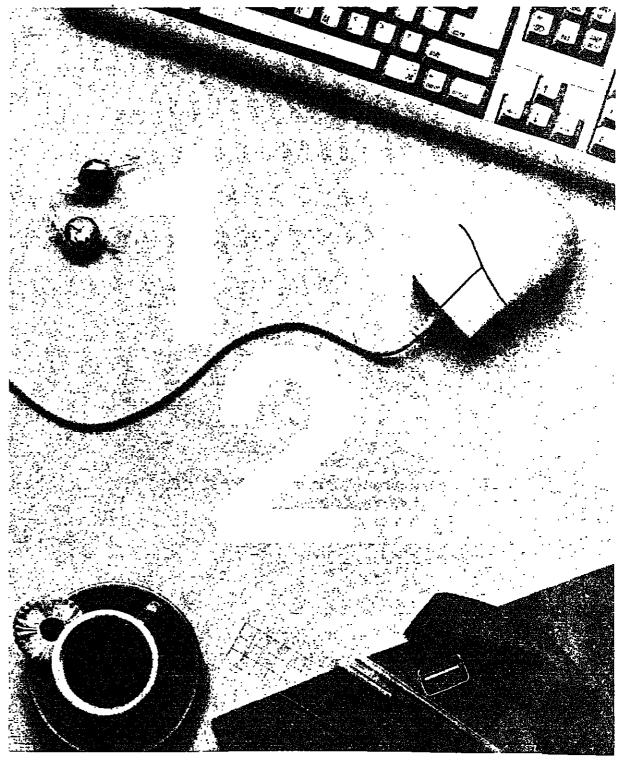
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Japanese bargain with Russia while they can

Sy Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo

A FEW MILES off its north-east coast, on every Japanese-made map of Japan, are three enticing-looking islands called Eto- found its way from Tokyo to treaty and sign it by 2000, the rofu. Kunashiri and Shikotan. The map shows them to be steep and mountainous, with small fishing towns clinging to the coastline. They look like the perfect place for an adventure

bergs during the winter. But travel agents in Tokyo giggle uncomfortably when you ask about the islands and, whatever the maps claim, any attempt to cross the narrow straits which separate them from the Japanese mainland can only end one way: interception and arrest by Russian gunboats.

holiday - you imagine bears, and

smouldering volcanoes, and ice-

These are the Northern Territories (the Southern Kurile Islands to the rest of the world). a relie of the Cold War, and the principal reason for Boris Yellsin's visit to Japan this weekend. Since August 1945, when Russia seized the three islands and the uninhabited islets of Habomai, they have been the subject of a dispute which has overshadowed all else in Rus-

for less than 1 per cent of Japanese overseas trade. Even after the two sides have never signed a presidential election. peace treaty: technically the Secand World War has never ended between Russia and Japan.

SAKHALIN Okholsk (RUSSIA) ISLANDS HOKKAIDO (JAPAN)

During the Cold War, relations were so bad that this detail hardly made a difference, but since the collapse of the Soviet without a big incentive. Union it has become anomalous. have been made to sew up a deal. "For 40 years things were absolutely chilly." says a Japan-

with each other - Russia counts racy and the free market." Last year, at their first summit in Siberia, the two leaders Moscow. Most remarkably, the scheduled date for Russia's next

> Physical control of the Southern Kuriles clearly belongs to Russia, as the Japanese were expelled at the end of the war and replaced by transplanted Soviet status quo is unsatisfactory, so the 18 months between now and the 2000 deadline will be a battle of nerves.

For Mr Yeltsin, there is the lure of Japanese money. After the summit in Siberia, Tokyo announced \$1.5bn (£888m) in loans. What few polls have been conducted suggest that plenty of happy to live in rich Japan rather than under distant Moscow. But no Russian president is going to hand them over

Japan insists on recognition In the last year, great efforts of its sovereignty as a precondition to a peace treaty - having achieved that, it is clear no ese official. "Now we find to our be returned overnight. Securi- the chance arises again.

Though neighbours, the two north this big country with sim- ty, rather than possession, is a countries conduct little trade ilar values to our own - democ- consideration. During the Cold War, the Kuriles were important principally for their strategic value as a hiding place for Russian end of the Cold War, little aid has promised to work on a peace nuclear submarines and potentially as the launch pad for a Soviet invasion. "That fear has receded," says a Japanese goverament source, "but I don't know if it's disappeared".

The Japanese are burdened

with continuing uncertainty

about the Russian presidency. citizens. There is still a Russian However keen on a treaty with garrison on the islands. But the Japan, Mr Yeltsin has bigger things to worry about at home. and Tokyo is downplaying expectations of any big develop-ments this weekend. Having postponed his visit for a week. Japanese diplomats take comfort in the fact that Mr Yeltsin has chosen to come at all. They know poor health or political weakness could carry him off before their Russians in the Kirriles would be year 2000 deadline. In the village of Kawana where the Prime Minister and President will fish this weekend, a helicopter will be on standby to chopper Mr Yeltsin off - onto a plane to Moscow or, in extremis, to hospital. "The important thing is to make the most of this upsurge."



one would expect the islands to source. It might be years before Minority Interest: Demonstrators in Tokyo protesting in support of the Ainu, an aboriginal minority from the northern

Yeltsin keeps cards close to his chest on Kurile Islands deal

By Phil Reeves

in Messaw

BORIS YELTSIN was last night preparing to fly from Moscow leaving behind a be- time, the lower house of parwildered country without a liament refused to confirm prime minister, a permanent Sergei Kiriyenko, the 35-yeargovernment, or any clear indi- old provincial neophyte whom cation of who is in charge of the Mr Yeltsin - to universal as-Kremlin while he is away.

doctors, the President faced a final vote is next week; if he is

prime minister. Ryutaro Hashimoto, that could scarcely have been more unfortunately timed. Yesterday, for the second tonishment - nominated as his Closely monitored by his prime minister last month. The

parliament must be dissolved.

as the filthy spring slush that has engulfed the capital.

with parliament, which the Prespoor health record - he is in-times, it would still be viewed tioning his mental condition. placed on ice by a dispute over possible.

weekend of talks with Japan's again rejected, the law states the ident is trying to pass off as "pol- capacitated. Under the consti- with foreboding in Russia, es- Last month, he tried to give an the Kurile islands. The summit As Mr Yeltsin prepared to enough. But it was also unclear prime minister. But Russia has leave his residence outside who is running the shop while Moscow, accompanied by his he is away. He will remain in younger daughter Tatyana (chief charge of the trigger controlling suspect as one of the authors of Russia's arsenal of nuclear the current crisis), he was im- weapons during his stay in the the Kremlin, which said the mersed in a crisis as transparent resort of Kawana, 75 miles President himself would resouth-west of Tokyo. But no main at the helm. laws exist specifying who stands

ities as normal", is complex tution, that job falls to the not got one. Earlier this week. Mr Kiriyenko announced he would take command, but his remarks were brushed aside by

His game of brinkmanship in if - as is possible, given his taking place in less troubled of embarrassing headlines ques- ond World War - a document

pecially among "the family" - his end-of-talks press conference and the cluster of moguls who support the Kremlin.

They know all too well that the 67-year-old President does time there will be no hitches as not travel well these days. His Mr Yeltsin sits down with Mr with Joe DiMaggio. trip to Sweden late last year. Hashimoto. The agenda in-Even if Mr Yeltsin's trip were where he was, produced a stack ending the hostilities of the Sec-

handlers, wife and daughters - before discussions had even begun with Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl in Moscow.

Russia will be hoping that this when he seemed confused as to cludes discussing a peace treaty

has already been postponed once because of Mr Yeltsin's domestic political problems.

It will be an informal meeting in the beachside hotel where Marilyn Monroe honeymooned

But no amount of glamour is likely to lessen the anxiety of the President's aides to get their man back home as fast as

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Standoff as Duma rejects Kiriyenko

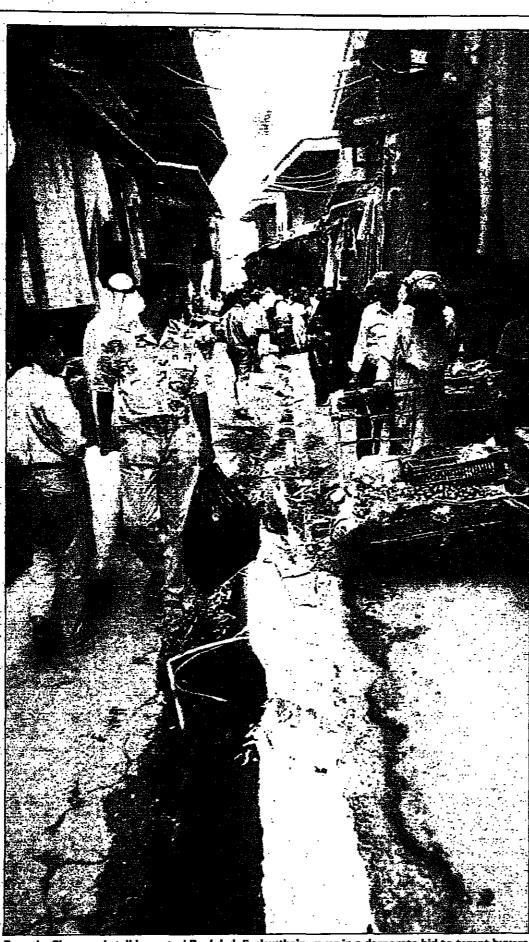
BORIS YELTSIN last night stood firmly by his chosen, but twice rejected, prime minister and set the stage for the most politically precarlous stand-off with parliament since he sent in the tanks in 1993, writes Phil Reeves in Moscow.

His tug-of-war with an indignant legislature entered its final nailbiting stage as he nominated Sergei Kiriyenko as premier for a third time - Ignoring complaints that the 35-year-old is too inexperienced to chair the government of a vast nuclear power. The President's move came after the 450-member lower house, the State Duma, refused for a second time to confirm Mr Kiriyenko in the job.

The former provincial banker won only 115 votes from the Communist- and nationalist-dominated chamber - 111 less than he needed to be confirmed, and 28 fewer than when his candidacy was first rejected a week ago. Mr Yeltsin has insisted throughout that Mr Kiriyenko, a technocrat who favours market economics, is his only candidate for the job, which became vacant when he sacked Viktor Chernomyrdin and his administration on 23 March, By the constitution, a third rejection would automatically lead to the Duma's dissolution and new elections.

The final vote will be next week. The key question is whether both adversaries are willing to see the Duma disbanded, or if one side's nerves will crack. Both stand to lose if the chamber is shut down. The Kremlin knows that the next parliament is hkely to be even more hostile. Whatever happens, though, Mr Yeltsin gets his man. If the Duma is dissolved, Mr Kiriyenko will be automatically confirmed as premier, and a cabinet appointed. For parliament, the downside is the uncertainty of keeping their seats, the loss of treasured perks, and a fear that Mr Yeltsin may find a way of delaying new elections.

Yesterday, the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov declared that Russia was now "hostage to a dead constitution and an absolutely incapable president". Mr Yeltsin put a brave face on the crisis. As he prepared to fly to Japan, he took the result "calmly", his spokesman said. Since this damaging business is of his own making, there is not much else he could do.



For sale: Shops and stall in central Baghdad display their wares in a desperate bid to tempt buyers

Iraqi economy has gone to the dogs

By Patrick Cockburn

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FRIDAY is the day of the dog mar-ket in Baghdad. It takes place in the Souq al-Gazil, a stretch of empty ground beside the main road on the edge of the main market, which hundred barking dogs from early in the morning.
They come in all sizes from dap-

per terriers to grim German Shepherds. Their owners mostly are selling them as guard dogs. These are popular among Iraqis because of the increase in robberies and theft as the country gets poorer as a result of sanctions.

"Nimr is a clever dog," said a man, indicating the pugnacious hound beside him. "He will tear a piece out of any enemy who gets near your home. But if he sees somebody whom he knows is a friend of his owner he will never attack him."

The expression on Nimr's face did not give one complete confidence in his friend-or-foe identification system, but he looked as if he was worth the 25,000 fraqi dinars (£15) being asked for him.

Iraqis do not usually keep dogs as indoor pets, but in one corner of the Souq al-Gazil a group of better dressed owners were disposing of poodles and dachshunds who were clearly not cut out to guard anybody.

The most popular pets for sale are pigeons, doves, parrots and budgies. But in the middle of the souq is an entire street filled with people buying and selling goldfish

along with fish tanks and ornaments.

-When Iragis want to enjoy themselves on a Friday they go to the markets." said an Iraqi friend. From early in the morning they pour into Shurjah, the central market area on the east bank of the Tigris.

Since sanctions were imposed echoes with the sound of several eight years ago the markets have grown as Iraqis try to survive by selling and buying small quantities of goods. Nothing exposes the real poverty of the country better. People sit for hours in the sun trying to sell a broken electric fire or some cracked plates.

There is also the continuing need for spare parts. The streets are full of cars, but none have been imported since 1990. They are cheap to run because 60 litres of gasoline - the only item not in short supply or very expensive - costs just £2. In one morning two cars I was travelling in broke down. The first had a broken fuel pump. The second started emitting clouds of smoke or steam from the engine. In each case the only remedy for the driver was to go immediately to Shurjah mar-

ket and try to find the spare part. There are people with money in Baghdad. In the bird market a merchant showed us two hawks for hunting, each tethered to the stump of a tree. He said: "The first comes from Kurdistan and I will sell him for 750,000 dinars (£450) the other is from Iran and will cost you oneand-a-quarter million dinars

of Shurjah market is probably the streets where Iraqi intellectuals come to sell their books. Many are laid out on the pavement off al-Rashid street. Some were obviously once part of somebody's university course, like Henry IV Part One or a battered Penguin classic edition of Sophocles.

Baghdad does not show the same signs of poverty as Beirut did in the civil war, when there were obvious symptoms of the collapse of government. Rubbish either rotted where it was left or was consumed in bonfires which burned all over the city. But Baghdad still works. Cars obey traffic lights, though there are frequent electricity black-outs. There are also signs of better times ahead with more foreigners turning up, looking for business. There are pilgrims, mostly Lebanese and Iranian, going to the great shrines at Kerbala and Najaf. There are hopes. perhaps misplaced, that the crisis and near war in February brought the end of sanctions nearer.

But this does not do much good to the mass of Iraqis. The collapse of the immunisation programme means diseases like polio, tuberculosis, meningitis and measles have become common. Most telling of all are the beggars on the streets. Last week, as we drove into Baghdad, three girls, all beggars and all under eight, launched themselves at our still moving car and clung onto the doorhandles and wing mirror, allowing themselves to be dragged would find somebody to buy them. along the road until we could stop.

The saddest place in the whole and pay them off.

Tensions rise over arms inspections

(£750)." He seemed confident he

nan negotiated an end to the winter stand-off between the United Nations and Iraq, concern was mounting yesterday that tensions over UN weapons inspections in that caused by the stand-off which cencountry may soon be reignited,

writes David Usborne in New York. Pessimism in New York centred on a new report to the UN Security Council from the chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler. In it, he says

that his teams have made "virtual-

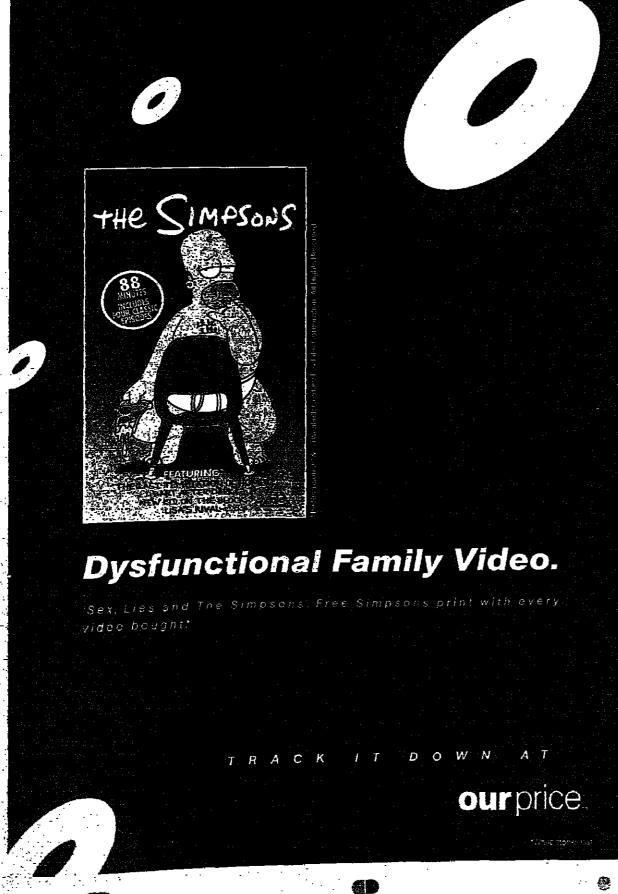
six months ago.

In his report, which will be considered by the council on 27 April, Mr Butler points to the disruptions tred on access for inspectors to Saddam Hussein's multiple palaces.

"If this is what Iraq intended by the crisis, then, in large measure, it could be said to have been successful," Mr Butler wrote. "A major consequence of the four-month crisis

BARELY two months after Kofi An- ly no progress" since his last report authorised by Iraq has been that, in contrast with the prior reporting period, virtually no progress in verifying disarmament has been able to be reported."

Only when Mr Butler certifies that he is satisfied that all of Iraq's programmes to produce nuclear, biological and chemical weapons have been dismantled can the Security Council considered lifting the sanctions imposed on the country after the Gulf War.





Mandela loses court battle with 'Mr Rugby'

By Mary Braid an Johannesburg.

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela lost his court battle with South African rughy vesterday after a judge ruled that the government must abandon its plans to investigate alleged racism, nepotism and financial irregularities in the sport.

Justice William de Villiers took 30 seconds to deliver his judgment after a controversial case during which he forced President Nelson Mandela to become the first South African president to defend a political decision in court.

He said he would give his reasons later but ordered the government to pay its opponent's costs.

In court, the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) had argued that the government had no right to interfere in its image of South African rugby affairs, while President Mandela testified that the sport was too important to nation-building to be ignored.

Last month's humiliating two-day cross-examination of the President prompted the black-controlled National Sports Council (NSC) to demand the resignation of the Sar-

istically modest in victory and

Luyt: Won court skirmish but may lose wider war

fu executive. Most of all it wants the head of the Sarfu for Sarfu resignations by 7 May. president "Big" Louis Luyt, a hate figure for those demanding a radical overhaul of the sport, still considered a bastion of Afrikaner nationalism.

The ruling came as the racist was reinforced in New Zealand, Toks van der Linde, a Springbok on tour with the Western Stormers side, was sent home after he reportedly called a black woman a "kaffir".

Last year the national rugby coach, Andre Markgraaff. was sacked after he was secretly taped referring to black rugby

officials as "fucking kaffirs". Though Mr Luyt gave the thumbs-up when the ruling was announced in a Pretoria court yesterday, he was uncharacter-

understandably so. Relations have never been worse between rugby and the government, which complains nothing is being done to bring Mandela's respect for the law. blacks into the sport. Sponsors and the NSC were quick to repeat warnings that a court vic-

could win the wider war. Mr Mandela's office said the government would appeal and the NSC said its demands "still stood". The council has said the South African rugby team will face an international boycott and withdrawal of its Springbok emblem if it does not comply. Sponsors, worried that a bovcott will cripple the game, have demanded that, at the very least, an inquiry should still

hide they argue, he should open his doors. There is speculation that the court victory might allow Big Louis, whose reputation for arrogance led Mr Mandela to describe him as a

"pitiless dictator", to step down. Russell MacMillan, chief executive of M-Net Supersport. which holds broadcasting rights in South Africa for the lucrative Super 12 and tri-nations series, repeated warnings that only Mr Luvi's resignation could save the game. The President's office yesterday spoke of the Mr

But an NSC executive member, Bill Jardine, said: "Racists are still in control of our judicial system and other sectors in tory did not mean Mr Luvt our country". Fink Haysom, the President's lawyer, criticised the "extraordinary" decision of Judge de Villiers, who opposed admission of black lawyers to the Pretoria Bar until the mid 1980s, to subpoena Mr Mandela. "We hope he will be as assiduous in furnishing reasons [for the judgment] as he was in giving his ruling."

■ BENONI: A white farmer accused of shooting dead a black infant withdrew his request for bail as protesters chanted and If Mr Luyt has nothing to sang for justice outside the court, AP reports.

Nicholas Steyn faces charges of murder and attempted murder. His lawyer and the prosecutor discussed possible threats to his safety if he were bailed.



Members of the African National Congress Women's League outside a court in Benoni, near Johannesburg, whe white farmer, accused of shooting dead a six-month-old black child, withdrew his request for bail

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Khmer Rouge fights on as Pol Pot burns for nearly eight centuries.

POL POT the Cambodian dictator responsible for the deaths of nearly 2 million of his own at a private ceremony without

2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas, hard-line remnants of Pol Pot's brutality. once powerful army, is holding out against government troops on the Cambodian border.

r", but for more than 20 years Vietnamese in December 1978. he has been better known to his enemies as "the Butcher".

Born in 1926, his real name Chhouen. After finishing his education in Phnom Penh, he. joined the resistance to French colonial rule in the late-Forties.

It was during this period that he met a young resistance fighter called Saloth Sar, who was later to rename himself Pol Pot. Ta Mok became an early adherent of Pol Pot's particular brand of Marxist-Leninist Communism, which was influenced by the anhad dominated South-East Asia bought to trial.

By 1975, he was in charge of the south-west zone of the country, and he played an active part in the Khmer Rouge's capture people, is to be cremated today of the capital, Phnom Penh. Their victory over the United Khmer Rouge leaders in atten- States-backed Lon Nol governdance. But the movement he led ment marked the start of one of until last year still refuses to die. the bloodiest purges in history. A force of between 300 and with Ta Mok second only to "Brother Number One" in his

With a ruthless zeal for executing middle-class "traitors", he was number three in the party Heavily outnumbered but by 1978 after surviving countless refusing to surrender, they are purges of the ruling executive by led by a one-legged veteran who Pol Pot. But the Butcher was the ousted Pol Pot as leader of the next committee member to be Khmer Rouge in 1997. His nom purged and was only saved from de guerre is Ta Mok. "grandfa- execution by the invasion of the

Despite losing a leg to a landmine in the early-Nineties. Ta Mok was put under house aris believed to be Chhit rest in October 1996 for not preventing the mass defection of Khmer Rouge soldiers to the government. He managed to escape, and captured Pol Pot in a lightning counter-attack.

As the man believed to he behind the abduction two years ago of Christopher Howes, the missing British landmine expert. and responsible for countless thousands of deaths. Ta Mok is now number one on the list of cient Khmer civilisation that Khmer Rouge leaders still to be

Rebels strike near summit

REBELS threw a bomb at a car-sales office in Santiago but it did not explode, police said, as leaders from 34 nations gathered for the Summit of the Americas. The rebels drove up to a Chrysler showroom, burnt a US flag, threw the bomb, fired shots and drove off. No one was hurt. The attack took place a mile from the summit venue. - Reuters, Sontiago

New broom for Mongolia

A FORMER journalist who helped topple Mongolia's Communist rulers was set to take over as prime minister after the Cabinet offered to resign. Tsakhiagan Elbegdori was among a group of intellectuals who rose against 70 years of Sovietbacked rule and demanded democracy. -Reuters, Ulan Battor

Kabila likened to Mobutu

THE UNITED NATIONS investigator for former Zaire compared President Laurent Kabila to the late dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and attacked his government for obstructing an inquiry into massacres of Rwandan Hutu refugees. "Mobutu's rule in the 1980s and his state structure is very much like that of Kabila," Roberto Garreton said - Reuters, Genevo

Blood money

THOUSANDS of Romanians crowded hospitals to donate blood to get money to spend on Orthodox Easter, one of the biggest holidays. Romanians get 84,000 lei (about £6) for giving blood, and a borus of 205,000 lei after five donations.

Ghetto survivor honoured

Poland's president Aleksander Kwasniewski awarded the highest state distinction, the White Eagle Order, to Marek Edelman, 75, the only surviving leader of the ill-fated uprising in the Warsaw ghetto in April 1943.



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Saving the view from the bridge

survived the Civil War, but it faces its most-serious threat from developers, says Julian Critchley

LUDLOW, one of the most beautiful small towns in England, is under threat from the planners. The castle, from which Wales was governed 400 hundred years ago, is under siege, not from Cromwellians who captured the town during the Civil War, but from the developers, planners and the South Shropshire District

Turner painted the castle. Dinham bridge and the river Teme: it is precisely that view that is vulnerable to desecration in the names of profit and "progress".

An ugly covered swimming pool is to be torn down. In its place it is proposed to permit a firm of Telford developers to put up six dwellings in Midland red brick, in painful contrast to the Silurian yellow limestone of the castle.

At least that was the idea, and it was originally passed by the relevant committee by 14 votes to one. But, thanks to angry Ludlovians, and a petition of 300 signatures, the district council promptly met again and voted to reverse their origginal decision by one to 14. But there is a catch. Ludlovians have been given until the end of April to match the £150,000 which the district council considers to be the value of the site. So far Guild '98, a body of local people, have raised £23,000 in pledges, including one of £5,000 from the Plymouth Es-

All 13 "Ludlows" in North America have been written to by the Guild asking for pledges and have received a video of Ludlow itself. The English Partnerships Community Investment Fund has been that developers will fight shy of approached (so far without result), the National Lottery protest. Charities Board, the Civic Trust Local Projects Fund and several other similar bodies. Lord Powis, who owns the castle has: been written to asking him for his support. We wait in hope. Guild '98 has organised a

town meeting for the end of April to be followed by a brief which will be sent to every dis-



trict councillor (Ludlow has seven out of 42 councillors). Our dilemma is quite simply put. The price put on the the site by the district council seems infinitely elastic, while the time allowed to protesters, remarkably short. We can either raise the money, which seems unlikely, or, so muddy the waters raising a horner's nest of

The site itself was originally bought by public subscription; ownership passed to the old town council, and then in the plethora of local government reorganisation that has characterised recent years, was acquired by South Shropshire District Conneil. Guild '98 would prefer the site to become

an open space-memorial garden and to refurbish the old mill to generate electricity from the River Teme, which we have been told is a practicable proposition. If this development were not enough, Ludlow is faced with a rash of other developments, many, if not all of which, would deface the town: the barbarians are at the gates. The southern approach road

runs through unspoilt country with a marvellous view of the Clee Hill directly into the town and its 14th century bridge. There are plans afoot to build on the eastern side of the road, thus adding a third suburb to the town. One of Ludlow's many attractions is that on two sides at least, town gives way suddenly to country.



Tesco has been granted permission to build a supermarket on what was a council-owned site at the bottom of Corve Street. When he was Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer twice rejected the planned building as "unsuitable", John Prescott is now being asked to consider a third plan. Whatever its merits or demerits, a supermarket on such

a site would attract many peo-

ple living in south Shropshire,

who would park their cars out-

side and do their shopping. If

with a rash of developments. The barbarians are at the gate

Ludlow is faced

this went ahead, few, if anyone, would climb the long and very steep hill that is Corve Street to shop in the town proper, thus endangering the bulk of the town's shops which lie within the conservation area at the top of the town.

Besides having much beautiful Georgian and Tudor architecture, we can boast six butchers' shops, an excellent deli, and several fruiterers.

All would suffer were Tesco to take away their trade. There is already an ominous rash of charity shops. A final threat is housing development on Gallows Bank, one of the two remaining green spaces to the east of the old town.

What could happen in handsome Ludlow, is typical of what is, and has been, happening

All one has to do is to travel 10 miles south of the Hereford Road as far as Leominster to see what "development" has done to a small country town. The heart has been taken out

of it by careless road traffic schemes and an out-of-town supermarket.

With such an example at its doorstep, it is little wonder that the townsfolk of Ludlow. who include many newcomers taking advantage of comparatively low house prices, are up in arms. A final irony is in the picture of Ludlow, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. that is to be found on the A49. The message is "Come to Ludlow", the picture believe it or not, is Turner's of the castle and Dinham bridge - but without the six dwellings the local authority seems so keen on inflicting on the finest view of the

God save us from the plan-

Party on: a globetrotter's guide to the millennium

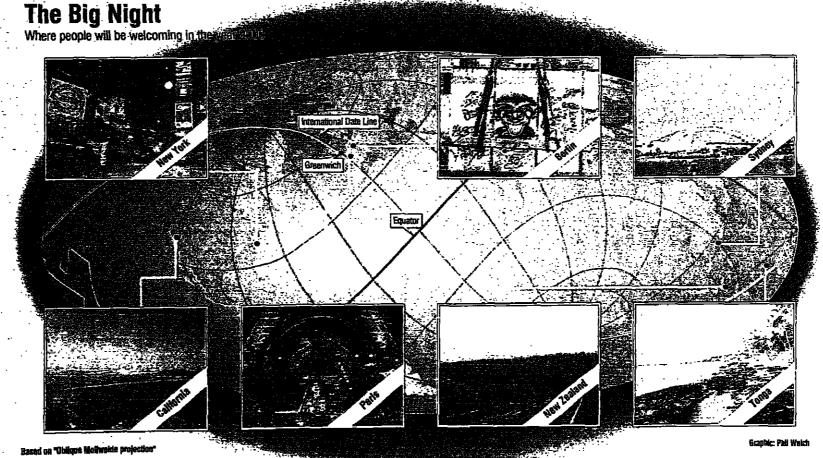
You might think all the best bashes are booked up. You'd be wrong. By Nicole Veash

ON MILLENNIUM EVE the world is expected to erupt into the mother of all parties, with nearly 2 billion people celebrating as midnight chimes on 31 December, 1999. Most of us have taken it for granted that villages, towns and cities across Europe, the Americas, Australasia and the Pacific, will try to outdo each other with fabulous displays of fireworks, laser and light shows, live entertainment, festivals, parades, big-name bands and grand ceremonial gestures, In Britain, the Cabinet is expected to approve a four-day bank holiday to mark the new age, giving us the opportunity to have an all-day, all-night extravaganza as the culmination of the celebrations.

Not so fast. Rumours of fully booked hotels, restaurants and planes have been much exaggerated. So far, it seems as if most people are going to do what they normally do - sup the cocoa during a nightin with Clive James on TV - unless they make a sudden effort to arrange a big bash.

But with the planned four-day break. which Culture Secretary Chris Smith has proposed (suggesting Friday 31 December and Monday 3 January as bank holidays), the temptation for Britons is to look further afield than the Greenwich Millennium Dome and head to the four corners of the globe for the party of the century.

Take, for example, Gisborne, on New Zealand's north-east coast. There you could glimpse the first sunrise of the new millennium and join around 100,000 parly-goers expected to swarm to the town and surrounding areas. Over the water, Ric Birch, producer of the opening



ceremony of Australia's 2000 Olympic Games, has been asked to stage an outdoor party in Sydney harbour and he still has a lot of space to fill.

Because the International Date Line passes through the South Pacific, there will be major events on many paradise islands. Tonga's New Millennium Festival will run

throughout December, while a pan-Fijian party will climax in a dawn-to-dusk concert on the island of Viti Line.

A three-day bash in southern California is expected to attract thousands. The outdoor Party 2000, aimed at America's post-Woodstock generation, has a £662m budget and is expected to attract 2.5 mil-

lion people. Only 100,000 tickets have so far been sold. Slicker, media-led spectaculars will take place across America, including a gathering in Times Square, synonymous with New Year's Eve in American minds, where satellite television will link up with festivals around the world. Stephen J. Morello, president of the New denburg Gate in Berlin. The city's

York Convention and Visitors' Bureau. says: "We have hardly even begun to take reservations and it is annoying that various promoters are claiming the city's hotels have been sold out when they haven't."

Tens of thousands of people are expected to congregate around the Bran-

celebrations are to stretch over 20 months, incorporating the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Paris plans a series of bizarre (and fairly tasteless) displays, including turning the Eiffel Tower into a high-tech chicken for a night. An enormous egg will descend out of the belly of the tower, to the sound of 2,000 drums from five continents. When the egg cracks open, hundreds of television screens relaying images of millennium parties from around the globe will be revealed. There is also a plan to fill the River Seine with coloured plastic fish. The city's celebrated George V Hotel has only 50 rooms booked for the big night, with another 200 still available for partygoers.

Closer to home, London and Edinburgh will compete for the best celebration. The extra bank holiday gives those from outside London time to travel to the Millennium Dome for the New Year's Eve party. While in the Scottish capital, Hogmanay has been elevated to a four-day festival for more than 350,000 people.

Although celebrations will thrill part of the world, others remain unmoved. For Jews, the Christian message has no resonance, and, rather than mark 2,000 years since Christ's birth, they are now in their 57th century. In Egypt, the millennium coincides with the Islamic year 1420 and even the country's Coptic Christians believe it is only 1716. Thailand, a Buddhist country, began its own second millennium 42 years go, while in China, communist party officials talk earnestly about the 21st century, not parties.

But if you just want to stay in and toast the new millennium with a bottle of bubbly, you'll be reassured to know that there's still plenty of time to get the drinks. The Champagne Information Bureau says there are currently one billion bottles of the golden elixir lying in storage, although it concedes that some vintages might be hard to find.

Research by Adrian Morrison

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Alistair Mo

Warning from the profit of doom

Warren Clarke is happy to upset Bristolians in a series exposing their role in the slave trade, writes Anthea Gerrie

WITH his pugnacious soowl and jutting jaw. Warren Clarke looks like a man permanently ready for a punch-up. But it is only now, nearly 30 years after he first laid on the aggro as one of Maleolm Mac-Dowell's henchmen in A Clockwork Orange, that he has actually got into a fight.

it comes from an unexpected quarter. The actor's opponents are the burghers of Bristol, enraged at his determination to expose the city's secret past - that its prosperity was built on the slave trade.

"Of course there were slaves," he says, "Of course they were heavily involved. This was Britain's Holocaust, yet it isn't even taught in our

He is as passionate about the is-

sue when we meet in a Soho lunch club as he was last December in Bristol, when the BBC drama A Respectable Trade, in which Clarke plays the boorish, upwardly mobile slave trader. Josiah Cole, was premiered in a city still in denial that its prosperity was built on the prof-

its of human cargo. It is this refusal to accept the validity of definitive documentation that angers him.

"The series doesn't tell any lies; it's set in Bristol because that was a major port of entry for this "respectable" trade the whole nation was involved in. Other cities were involved - Liverpool heavily - but Liverpool has acknowledged its involvement in a very open way."

The Bristol Evening Post is owned by the Merchant Venturers, who as former slave trade monopolists come over as chief villains of the BBC programme, and they took up cudgels when Clarke asserted that the city's history deserved full exposure, saying. "Cities like Bristol became stinking rich because of the slave trade". His name was blazed across the front page.

The four-part series is adapted from her own novel by Philippa Gregory, who was born in Africa, but raised in Bristol. She discovered an

"I bave a history PhD and I did-



n't know about this - like most conventionally educated people I thought slavery was something that happened in Africa... I discovered there were 20,000 runaway slaves in London alone, which implies that there were a lot more that hadn't run

Clarke was won over to A Re-

speciable Trade by the fact that "it is a beautiful love story, but at the same time it's a powerful tale that hasn't been told before. It covers as a bully-boy. dodgy ground. This country made fortunes out of slavery. The only thing that was cheap was black peo-

ple's lives. If a slave was ill on board

a ship, they just threw him over-

board. That's how they thought. It's very shaming." It is not difficult to paint Clarke

> At 50, he still looks every inch the Droog, as menacing in his expensive soft black kid jacket as be was circa 1971 in his red lipstick and bowler hat. He treats every interview

Reaping riches: Warren Clarke plays Bristol slave trader Josiah neaping riches: vvarren Clarke plays pristol stave of three Cole in the new BBC series A Respectable Trade, one of three shows Clarke is currently starring in.

as a sparring match, glowering over his white wine and puffing defensively on his cigarette. But Clarke has mellowed somewhat since he told his Manchester headmaster to "sod off" when advised to drop the idea of acting in favour of a more suitable profession for a secondary modern boy like plumbing.

Today he still looks tough but speaks softly, with self-deprecating humour. He is humble about his success to the point of insecurity.

"Am I becoming boring?" he asks anxiously when reflecting that not for the first time he is hitting British television screens in triplicate. A Respectable Trade comes in the wake of his return in Dalziel and Pascoe, and will be followed soon by a satire on BBC management, In the Red. Unlike other charismatic middle-aged British television stalwarts bypassed by the movies, Clarke's big-

> "Black people lives were cheap. If a slave was ill on board a ship they just threw him over board. It's very shaming."

screen potential has been identified and explored by four of cinema's most famous names - Stanley Kubrick, Lindsay Anderson, Elaine May and Clint Eastwood.

Eastwood, who cast him as a Russian spy in Firefox, won his admiration: "He doesn't direct you, he just asks you questions and talks to you nicely. The only way you know he wants a retake is when he sidles up and whispers, 'How was that for

Firefox was a flop, however, and Clarke went on the dole until he made an outstanding comeback in television; he has featured in more than 60 productions and become the most hardworking leading man of

Despite his small screen omnipresence he relishes the fact that he still looks like a van driver and is therefore forever being greeted by people who find his face familiar without having the foggiest idea how

they know him. "They'll look at me walking down the street and say Hiya - but in fact nobody knows who I am."

He would like to do more comedy, he says, harking back to an obscure television series called Sleepers, which he co-produced as well as starring in as a Russian spy. "Twe gut an American award for it on my wall,"

But he actually has no idea what he will do next, let alone a game planfor the future: "When I started out at 15 and a half going off to rep it was a joke, really. I told my mother: "Don't worry, if I haven't made it by the time I'm 20 I'll give up. I never thought I'd still be working at this age; in fact I didn't even think

I'd be this age."

Perhaps middle age is his Achilles heel; he feels it so acutely that he felt moved to take extreme action when he imagined he was being mocked by younger actors in ID, the television drama about football hooli-

"I call it my second Clockwork Orange, because I played the leader of a gang and the language was similar. I was in my late forties at the time and conscious of all these young actors like Sean Pertwee looking at me and wondering: What's this old fart doing here?" I was some prat from Stonehenge as far as they were concerned.

"One day I went out and got my head shaved, picked up this baseball bat, ran into the room where they were all sitting around and smashed a few tables up.

"It was just my way of saying: 'Hey, we're making the same movie, guys.' After that they were all right."

As for A Respectable Trade, he says he hopes "viewers will come away with a little more knowledge of what we did. There's still an element of racism in this country. The quicker it subsides the better for everyone."

A Respectable Trade begins tomorrow on BBCI at 9 pm.

> Brilliant Sinead Cusack

It's Cusack who really wears the trousers

nears the end of an existence that's representative of the death of a whole way of life. Figures from the past keep permeating the present and, in language that often seems to overdose on its own lyricism, a vanished world is revived, though in an order that often feels loose and arbitrary. The leading role is taken by an actor who rises magnificently to a daunting occasion and turns in a tour de force that stops the heart. Haven't we been here before?

We have - in Sebastian Barry's prize-winning play. The Steward of Christendom, that focused on the painful contradictions embodied in the author's great great grandfather. Thomas Dunne, the last Catholic head of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and loval servant of the British Crown before Irish independence. A peculiarly benign case of a drama-

A BEDRIDDEN central character nears the end of an existence that's Max Stafford-Clark's 'Our Lady of Sligo' is a tour de force, with a riveting performance from its leading actress. By Paul Taylor

> tist who has flourished through being well connected, Barry has, over several plays, reclaimed and reimagined the lives of his helpfully colourful ancestors resulting in an alternative history of Irish experience that is tenderly attentive to its misfits and anomalies, the divided and

the ambiguously placed. Now, in *Our Lady of Sligo*, using a memory play format highly reminiscent of The Steward, Barry turns his attention to the grandmother he never knew. The first woman to wear trousers in Sligo, Mai was a hold representative of moderate middle-class Catholics whose hopes of inheriting the new independent

Ireland were dashed by the hard-line de Valera and the Sinn Fein revolution. We meet her, aged 53, as she lies dying of cancer in a peeling private ward, wrestling with the unfulfilled promise of the past and visited by the husband (Nigel Terry) who tried to turn himself into a British gentleman - army major. old Nigeria hand etc - only to find that, by the time he'd achieved it, there were no posh Protestants left to impress with this anachronistic persona. Disappointment led to drink which led to the loss of inherited property which led to Mai's drink problem which led, harrowingly to the loss of a child.

In a haunting, timely and beautifully focused Out of Joint/National Theatre co-production by Max Stafford-Clark, Sinead Cusack is quite superb in the arduous central role. Full of witty scorn and moving desperation, pugnacity and poignancy, it's a performance that succeeds in making brilliant instantaneous shifts between the present grim reality and the various Mais that are conjured up in her morphine-induced remi-

nincences and fantasies. There's the sex, the arrogant woman who clings, despite all the alcoholism and failure, to the sense of herself as a bit of a legend, and

resents the humiliating way men like her husband were forced by de valera to remove forms on the mail boat when returning from the War. There's the desolately bereaved mother, cradling a tin containing the picture of the baby her drinking may have killed and recalling, in one of Barry's many achingly precise images, its hands "opening and closing like the gestures of a tiny friend". There's a little girl pining for the security of her reliable, top hatted father. A shifting palimpsest: deeply affecting because so irreverent and

The jury may still be out on whether Barry is a natural dramatist as opposed to a gifted writer for whom the stage is just one forum. But, with artists of the calibre of Ms Cusack on board, the distinction becomes a trifle academic.



with Nigel Terry in Our Lady of Sligo Bishop Rot Photograph:

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DAVID LISTER'S ARTS DIARY

year old daughter was studying Picasso in primary school I took her on a trip to the Tate Gallery to see Picasso's works in the raw. The Tate has 21 paintings and sculptures and a further 20 prints by Picasso. And now that the National Gailery has agreed that the Tate should show the 20th century Masters, the Tate is the only place in London to see Picasso in any depth. So how many of his works were on display when we visited? None. Certainly, the annual re-hangs by Tate director Nicholas Serota have made the gallery increasingly exciting and challenging. But surely there should be certain key artists who are always on display, to fulfill the Gallery's educational role, if nothing else.

A Tate spokeswoman told me yesterday that two Picassos. one painting and one sculpture. were now back on display. And she assured me that at the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside there will always be Picasso on display. But that will not open until the year 2000. In the meantime, art lovers should be able to find more than two Picassos at the country's best known centre for modern art.

DELIGHTED that my seven And they should never have to make do with none at all. Perhaps the next meeting of gallery directors should draw up a list of essential artists whose work must always be on display.

> Having had a small part in the drama of Nat Tate - namely revealing that author William Boyd had made up the American painter in one of the great literary hoaxes - I became intrigued by the numerous departures from reality in the statements and coverage that ensued. The most widely repeated "fact" in both British and American newspapers was that the New York launch party for Boyd's "biography" took place on 1 April. This, of course, was most fitting: a hoax played on the very day when hoaxes should be played. Except that the launch party was actually on 31 March. But why let a day or even a month get in the way of symbolic purity?

I read with interest a report in the Sunday Times that a film starring John Malkovich and Greta Scaechi will be loosely based on events at our very own Royal Opera House. But when the report went on to say there was a physical resem-

blance between Malkovich and the former ROH chairman Lord Chadlington, I was forced to conclude that either there is a shortage of opticians in Wapping, or the story was dictated by Peter Chadlington himself.

It is the constant complaint of theatre managements that punters these days decide on the spur of the moment

whether to go. Less and less do they book in advance. But it seems that Darlington is bucking the trend. The box office at the Civic Theatre has just taken an advance of £125,000 for the six-week run of Dick Whittington, which doesn't open until just before Christmas. Perhaps this week's snow confused them into a bout of seasonally-adjusted ticket buying.

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AND AT CINEMAS

EVERYWHERE

In 1948, as lecturer in Welsh

Born in 1921 and brought up

School and Llandello Grammar

School. Evans senior proceeded to Swansea University College, the United Theological College, Aberystwyth, where

he did a degree in Theology, and then to Jesus, Oxford, where he came under the influence of Professor Idris Foster, whose chief

research interest as a scholar was

in the literature of the Mabino-

gion, the 14th-century Welsh

manuscript, though he never

completed his life's work.

Evans, with Rachel Bromwich.

edited Foster's work on the

text in Culwch and Olwen: an

edition and study of the old

Arthurian tale (1992) and, in

valuable contribution was in his books on the early Christian

saints and medieval religious

literature. He edited the text re-

counting St David's life, Buch-

edd Deni, in 1959 and was

responsible for an excellent vol-

ume in English, The Welsh Life of St David (1988), as well as

1997, Culwch and Olwen. To some of us Evans's most

Fred Davis

MODERN snooker profeswithout a smile on their faces Even Ken Doherty, the reigning Embassy World Champion and one of the most personable players on the circuit, is forced to admit: "If you're 4-0 down in a best of nine, you've got to be sick to start smiling." For Fred Dayis, it wouldn't have mattered if he had been 40 or 44-0 behind - his trademark smile would have been on view to his opponent and the audience.

•

Inside. Davis might have been seething - though given his sunny disposition that is doubtful - but outwardly there was no clue to his inner thoughts. Steve Davis, no relation but every bit as gentlemanly and as skilful a player, said of his namesake: "He'd be smiling while kicking you in the teeth. He'd smile while concentrating on his shot, which is something I envied him for."

Brought up in the shadow of his elder brother Joe, who died in 1978, having been world champion on 15 occasions, Fred Davis didn't-always have a lot to smile about in his youth, Born in Whittingham Moor, near Chesterfield, in 1913, he took up snooker on a miniature table at home. Quickly assimilating the basics, he was taken by his father to compete at Burroughes Hall in London in the under-16 boys' championship. Fred was just 12, and reached the semi-

Joe to take all the plaudits. Throning professional in 1930, though neither player had a Fred didn't enter the world start, this particular profeschampionship until 1937.

and once again forced him to endure the wrath of his big ing. This rating revealed Joe to brother. Fred lost 17-14 to the be in receipt of a two-frame ad-Welshman W.A. (Bill) Withers, vantage and therefore the his cause not helped by the onset of myopia. Too self-conscious to tell anyone, he suffered in silence. Enraged by this defeat and the affront to family honour, Joe humbled Withers 30-1 in the second round.

The combination of Joe's ire and his poor eyesight persuaded Fred to consult an optician who developed a revolutionary pair of swivel-lens spectacles. But, before he could gain any benefit, the Second World War intervened and Fred Davis saw service in the Army. After being demobbed he played in the first post-war world championship out lost to Walter Lindrum in the semi-finals at Oldham.

However, he was getting closer to stepping out of Joe's shadows. A runner-up to the Scotsman Walter Donaldson in the 1947 final, Fred gained revenge 12 months later with an 84-61 success to make the 1998 best of 35 frames world final finals. His performance didn't seem like a short sprint. Fred impress Joe or the family who was now playing as well as or

MODERN snooker profeswere accustomed to bringing perhaps better than Joe and in mate round against the South sionals are often said to play trophies home to Derbyshire. the 1948-49 season beat his African Petrie Mans. Davis led Often dismissed by Joe for brother off level terms - the first 5-2 but eventually lost 18-16 aflacking ambition or dedication, of four occasions he managed ter coming from 13-8 down at Fred persevered while allowing to achieve the feat. Even then, one stage there was a bizarre twist. Al-His performance though was tinged with sadness. His broth-

er Joe was taken ill during the sional handicap tournament. interval of the final session. He It was an inauspicious debut sponsored by the Empire News, returned to his hotel and spent included a scaled handicap ratall the next day in bed before being driven home to London. On getting out of the car, he fell on to the pavement, remaining winner 37-36. there for nearly half an hour be-There was no dispute in fore being taken to hospital. A 1949 when Fred, still world six-and-a-half hour operation champion, defeated Joe 37-34, got him over the crisis but he though the latter's supporters died the next month from a

claimed he was fatigued from a chest infection. Fred Davis went on to play at the Crucible for another four years, and was still good enough to win the world billiards title nament for the first time in twice in 1980, beating the game's 1957, when only four players current chairman, Rex Williams, bothered to enter. The game in the final.

Despite diminishing success as the decade wore on, Davis continued to wield his cue with an ever-cheery smile until 1992. Finally, after a 62-year professional career he retired to his farmhouse in Denbigh, North

Trevor Baxter

Fred Davis, snooker player: born Whittingham Moor, Derbyshire 14 August 1913; World Professional Snooker Chambion 1948, 1949. 1951-56; World Billiards Champion 1980; married (two daughters);



died Denbigh, Gwyd 15 April 1998. Davis: 'He'd be smiling while kicking you in the teeth'

Alistair Morrison

"STRINE" first appeared in up with two studies purporting Australian newspapers in 1964 to be of English as the British under the name of its creator, Professor Afferbeck Lauder. It was his title for Australian English, or rather, his record of colloquial Australian pronunciation, a record which made fun of the national pastime of elision, or the dropping of vowels and syllables from the snoken language.

Mar the

Strine and Afferbeck Lauder took off as resident jokes of the Sixties, and his two books Let Stalk Strine (1965) and Nose Tone Unturned (1966) became bestsellers. Lest the Poms laughed

spoke it, Fraffly Well Spoken (1968) and Fruffly Suite (1969).

Afferbeck Lauder, Professor of Strine Studies at the University of Sinny, was really Alistair Morrison, a painter born in Melbourne and a relation of the distinguished Australian journalist George Ernest Morrison, better known as Morrison of Peking. Like his famous relative, Alistair Morrison was the right man for the right time. His announcement that Austheir own language called Strine too loudly at them, he followed came in a decade when Aus- bookshop queue where Moni-

constrictions of the Fifties, writing critical books about themselves and inventing their own forms of satire and self-parody. In today's ultra-serious and politically correct world. Strine as a concept would probably fall down dead.

recent trip to Bermuda.

In total, Fred was world

champion eight times in nine

years, retiring from the tour-

then went into decline, but Fred

didn't fade away. In 1969 he lost

in the semi-finals to Gary Owen

but 12 months later suffered the

on cueing and despite another

attack in 1974 still reached the

semi-finals the same year, losing

to the Welshman Ray Reardon.

Forties and Fifties, perhaps

Davis's greatest achievement

was getting to the last four in

1978, aged 64. Victories over

Dennis Taylor and Patsy Fagan

brought him into the penulti-

Undaunted, Davis carried

Despite his successes in the

first of two heart attacks.

Back then, people couldn't get enough of it. Everyone's favourite entry in the lexicon of Afferbeck Lauder (alphabetical order), and the one that inspired Morrison to compile it in the first place, was Emma Chissit. tralians spoke not English but As Morrison later explained, a woman standing in a Sydney

in 1964, handed the author a copy and said: "Emma Chissit?" Thinking that this was the woman's name, Miss Dickens wrote it where she signed the book. Morrison said: "I realised

that, while we all speak Strine fluently, there did not seem to be any reliable and comprehensive dictionary of the language available for use by visitors, students, New Strines and people who speak only English." Other much-quoted entries

included: Gloria Soame (as in "They have a gloria soame near Nagy, the Bauhaus professor.

tralians were throwing off the ca Dickens, the British novelist, the beach"); Laura Norder During the Second World War. Strine that he intended as a was signing copies of her work (something politicians are always vowing to promote to counter crime): Baked Necks. tralian government commis-Emma Necks and Scremblex (three breakfast dishes); and the Yarts (which always seem starved of public funding).

> Morrison was an unlikely satirist. His background was serious and conservative. He was educated at Scotch College, a Presbyterian boys' school in Melbourne, trained as a graphic and industrial designer in his home city, then left for Europe. where he worked in the mid-Thirties with Laszlo Moholy-

back in Australia, he worked as an aircraft designer. The Aussioned Morrison to chair the design committee for the country's decimal currency that was introduced in 1966.

Morrison's role as the inventor of Strine always overshadowed his respected work as an abstract painter. His paintings were exhibited in Australia's leading public galleries and in the Victoria and Albert Museum. In his later years Morrison moved to Fremantle, in Western Australia, where he probably reflected on how the Australia 15 March 1998.

send-up eventually became received usage, even in the most esteemed quarters. Newsreaders at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, where the diction was closer to that of the BBC in Afferbeck Lauder's day, now freely talk of "Sinny's weather" and "Sinny Opera House" without batting an eye.

Robert Milliken

Alistair Ardoch Morrison, writer artist and industrial designer: born Melbourne 21 September 1911; married 1940 Aimee Mitchell (died 1975); died Fremantle, Western

Ashta: conscientious

Robert Ashta, priest: born Shkodra, Albania 22 August 1918; ordained

of the Welsh Saints in 1971. Writing of the prose of Rhygyfarch from 1095, Evans explained its purpose as "To create a past that would serve the exigency of the present". That in a nutshell is what he did in a fruitful, productive life as an gifted Celtic scholar.

D. Ben Rees

Daniel Simon Evans, Celtic scholar: born Lianfynydd, Carmarthenshire 29 May 1921; Professor of Welsh, University College, Dublin 1956-62; Lecturer in Welsh, St David's College, Lampeter 1962-66; Head of Debartment of Celtic Studies, Liverpool University 1966-74; Professor of Welsh, St David's College, Lampeter 1974-88; married (one son); died Cormorthen 4 March 1998.

Bishop Robert Ashta

ROBERT ASHTA was one of the four bishops consecrated by Pope John Paul II in April 1993 on his historic one-day visit to Albania.

Like his fellow-bishop Frano Illia (who died last October), Ashta was already in his midsevenies when consecrated. The other two consecrated with them in the packed cathedral in the northern Catholic stronghold of Shkodra were much younger. Only some 30 mostly elderly and infirm priests had survived the Communist onslaught out of a total of more

Although elderly at the time fession he was sent to Italy in of his appointment to the Puln diocese, Ashta carried out his duties conscientiously, travelling through the highland villages in his care. He died of a heart attack as he trekked to celebrate Easter Mass in the mountain village of Dushman north of

Shkodra. Ashta was born in Shkodra into a peasant family and was educated in Franciscan-run He decided that he too would join the order, and completed the noviciate in Troshani. After making his religious pro-

1939 to take higher theological studies. He studied in a number of Franciscan colleges, in Siena, Venice and in Motta di Livenza near Treviso, where he was ordained priest in July 1942.

On returning to Albania he taught mathematics at the Illyricum College in Shkodra where he bad once studied, as well as assisting in pastoral schools from the earliest age. work. At the end of 1944 he was sent as parish priest to a remote village near Tropoja.

It was there that he had his first brush with the new Com-

stitute, 51; Miss Bridget Towle, Chief

Guide, the Guide Association, 56; Miss Ruby Wax, actress, writer and

television presenter, 45: Mr Andrew Welsh MP, 54; Mr Philip Wroughton

munist regime in April 1946; in the Burrel region, where he home in Bajza. But at great risk his absence the state security police surrounded the parish house and searched it for religious work. In 1955 he was weapons. Ashta was arrested at the home of a priest he had been visiting in a village near Shkodra. Meanwhile, the security police summoned the villagers to show off to them the weapon they claimed to have found in the church, but an elderly woman recognised it as belonging to the political commissar of the local Communist resistance cell and Ashta was freed.

He then settled in Lura in

cared for a number of parishes amid tightening restrictions on transferred to serve in Vermosh and Selca, where he remained until Faver Hoxha abolished all religious practice in the country in 1967, making Albania "the first atheist state in the world". In 1974 Ashta was assigned to forced labour, heing sent to work on building the hydroelectric stations at Vau Dejes and Koman in northern Albania.

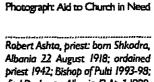
In 1985 he was able to retire and returned to the family

Catholics in secret in Kastrat. Selca and Vermosh. As Communism crumbled in Albania the ban on religious practice was finally lifted at the

he continued to minister to

end of 1990 and Ashta once more was able to serve in public. He was assigned to the pilgrimage site at Lac. It was there that he learnt on Christmas Day 1992 that he had been chosen by the Pope as one of the new bishops, the first to be consecrated in Albania for

Felix Corley



died Dushman, Albania 12 April 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

GRI: Roth Mary, of Speen, on 15 April, aged 83. Enquiries to 01296 482041.

SAFFEIL: Marion Elizabeth, on 14 April 1998, aged 73 years, after a long illness courageously borne. Sadly missed by all the family. Funeral scrives at St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, on Tuesday 21 April at 12.30pm. Donations if wished payable to either the British Diabetic Association or the Multiple Scierosis Society may be sent to Farthing, Singleton and Hastings, 550 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4PW.

WHYERAY: Roger Norman, Rev.

bridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4PW,
WHYBRAY: Roger Norman, Revcrend Professor, aged 74, beloved hushand of Mary, suddenly on 15 April
1998, Requirem Mass I I am at St Peter's in Ely, Cambridgeshire, on Thestay 28 April followed by cremation
at Cambridge. A memorial service will
take place Inter. Family flowers only.
Donations to Sue Ryder Home, Old
Palace, Ely, Further details from Ely
Fimeral Service. 01353 666566.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 077-293 2010.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS MOVAL ENGAGEMEN 13
TODAY The Julie of Edinbergh, Parren, Carnell Rugby Football Union, attends the County Chemistoship Final at Iwitkenham, Middaux: ToletoRROW! The Date of Edinbergh Freskers of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, began his visit postunitate to attend the 18th Biemist Conference at Barwin. The Princess Royal, President, attends the animal Berith Arandomy of Film and Edinbergh Son Film Swards at Grosvenor House Hold, Tark Lune, Londau W.

Clianging of the Guard Litanging of the GURTO
TODAY-The Fauschald Caraby Mounted Reginesis measure the Quiece's Life Cuard at Horse
Guarda, Usen, Nijmagen Company Orenadies
Guarda netwer the Queen's Guard at Buckley
have Paleses, 11 Mass. Isand provided by the Irah
Guarda, TOMORROW: The Household Carabp Mounted Regeneral mounts the Queen's Life
Outed affices a Guarda, (Bust 1-8 Butzalion Coldrived affices a Guarda, (Bust 1-8 Butzalion Coldrived affices a Guarda, (Bust 1-8 Butzalion Coldrived Palese, 11. Pales. Junal provided by
Battalogium Palese, 11. Pales. Junal provided by Birthdays ...

TODAY: Miss Avril Angers, actress, 76; The Hon Michael Beloff QC, President, Trinity College, Oxford, 56; Dr Clive Booth, former Vice-Lord-Lieutenant for Berkshire. 65. Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University, 55; Mr Alan Devereux, former Chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 65; Miss Barbara Hale, ac-**Anniversaries** TODAY: Births: Leopoid Antonin tress, 76; Sir Peter Hordern, chair-man, Fina, 69; Mr Peter Jeffrey, actor, conductor and composer. 1882.

Dearths: Albert Einstein, physicist, 1955; Dame Elisabeth Frink, sculptor, 1993. On this day: the 2,000 69; Mr Christopher Lawrence, managing director, London Philharmonic, 48; Mr Malcohn Marshall, ericketer, 40; Lord Mason of Barns-ley, former MP, 74; Miss Hayley Mills, actress, 52: The Rev Dominic Milroy Guineas horse-race was first run at Newmarket, 1809, Today is the Feast Day of St Apollorius the Apologist, Saints Eleutherius and Anthia, St OSB, former Headmaster, Ample-forth College, 66; Baroness Platt of Writtle, former Chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 75; The Galdinus, St Idesbald and St Laserian or Molaisse. TOMORROW: Births: Jayne Mansfield (Vera Jayne Palmer), actress, 1935. Deaths: Right Rev Dr Edward Roberts, for-Right Rev Ly Edward Roberts, for-mer Bishop of Ely, 90; Mr David Rif-fley MP, 36; Mr Ian Taylor MP, 55; Sir Teddy Taylor MP, 61; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice, Gibraltar, 92. TOMORROW: Mr William Baillie, President, Royal Scottish Academy, 75; The Most Rev Charles Robert Darwin, biologist, 1882: Sir Henry John Newbolt, poet and author, 1938. On this day: Prince Rainier III of Monaco married Grace Kelly, 1956, Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Alphege or Einhege of Canterbury, St Expedi-tus, St Geroidus and St Leo IX, Pope. It is also Easter Day in the Greek Or-Luigi Barbarito, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 76; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player, 42; Mr Algy Chiff, chairman and chief executive. Chiff Mining, 58: Mr Adrian Coles, Director-General, Building Societies Association. 44; Mr Tim Curry, actor, 52; Mr Trevor Francis, footballer. 44; Dr Norman Godman MP, 60; Sir Denis Henry, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 67: Mr Philip Hope MP, 43: Sir John Hor-Imke Valentien, "Prince Albert and the German Influence at the V&A".

lock, Professor of Engineering, Open

University, 70; Mrs Margo Mac-Donald, broadcaster, 54; Mr Dudley Moore, actor, 63; Mr Garfield Mor-

gan, actor, 67; Mr Hugh O'Brian, ac-

tor, 75; Mr Jonathan Owen Jones MP,

Salter MP. 44; Mr Peter Scott QC. 63;

a Lord Commissioner. 44; Mr Mur-

Lectures TODAY Victoria and Albert Museum

2.30pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Anti-intellectual Compositions"

ray Perahia, pianist, 51; Mr Alan Royal Institute of Oil Price, singer, 56; Sir John Roch, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 64; M Michel Roux, restaurateur, 57; Mr Martin **Painters** Mr Richard Manwaring Bines has been elected President of the Royal Mr Anthony Sell, Chief Executive, Institute of Oil Painters. He becomes the 12th President since the institute Stevenson, director, British Film In-

FAITH & REASON

Nightmare scenarios on shaky foundations

Right-wing Christians are demanding that the churches be exempted from human rights law. Martyn Percy wonders why

YOU might think from all the eulogies which surrounded the 30th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King earlier this month that three decades later his stance on equality, justice, and civil rights - motivated by his deeply held belief that all men and women were created equal in God's sight - would be manifested themselves in a number of universally accepted. But you would

Within the next few weeks, the Human Rights Bill will come before Parliament for its final reading. Surprisingly. perhaps, some within the Church are seeking to secure exemptions from its power. Amendments to the Bill have been tabled in the House of Lords. Although the elected government is committed to the Bill in its manifesto, it is an unelected body that is watering down the Bill, apparently in the interests of faith communities. The Church opposing human rights legislation? What's going on?

The Bill is concerned with holding

es. accountable to the European Con- adopted in, statute law in England still vention on Human Rights. The Bill seeks to bring about equality and justice for all, and gives "further effect" to the 1953 Convention. Why should Christians object? Actually, they haven't. For the most

part, the overwhelming majority of Christians have been kept in the dark: representation without consultation. But in the House of Lords a small conservative Christian grouping has lobbied hard on behalf of all faith communities, arguing that "churches have rights too", and that these might be infringed by the Government's introducing a Bill of Human Rights. Anxieties about the Bill have different ways. Mostly, however, they have been alarmist and misleading.

For example, Clause 6 of the Bill might be taken to regard churches solemnising marriages as "public authorities"; the nightmare scenario for conservatives is churches being "forced" to recognise same-sex unions, or conduct marriages to which they might have doctrinal objections. Other concerns have included Anglo-Catholic or ultra-Evangelical parishes "compelled" to include women on short lists for vacant posts, or church schools being taken to court for not appointing well-qualified atheists with a fondness for humanist assemblies.

But these "concerns" are scare tac-"public authorities", including church- ties. Clearly, whatever form the Bill is Yet the Convention is careful to avoid to perceive."

only recognises marriage between a man and a woman; any additional European legislation cannot change that. Equally, the rights of parishes who prefer an exclusively male priesthood are unaltered by a Convention or the Bill. Indeed, they are, ironically, protected by the Bill. Furthermore, the Bill has nothing to say about employment legislation, so church school governors worried about an invasion of Scientologists

can sleep easy. Rather than being exempted from the Bill, the churches might be wiser to participate fully in legislation that has its origins in the United Nations Charter (1948), which was a "universal declaration" promoting freedom, justice and peace for all. The European Convention on Human Rights came into force in 1953. The present Bill simply states that it is intended to

give further effect to the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.

It doesn't pose the threat that conservatives Christians imagine.

For example, Article 14 (of the Convention) states that

the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, natural or social origin, association with minority, property, birth or other status.

legislating for employment practice. It protects a limited range of rights.

So, individual parishes will not find themselves guilty of sexual discrimination under law for refusing the ministrations of a woman priest; neither will religious schools be forced to appoint well-qualified teachers who are not sympathetic to the ethos of the education on offer. Such scruples are protected under Article 9 of the Convention, which guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion, whereby the liberty to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are pre-scribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety.

(So, child sacrifice is out, but Christian teachers in church schools are probably fine.) Equally, Article 12 (Right to Marry) checks itself by offering it according to the national laws governing the

exercise of this right. (So, whatever conservative Christians

imagine the Dutch do, it doesn't follow that England is next.) It is hard to see what churches have

to fear from such a Bill. If the maintenance of church identity is dependent upon churches being exempt from legislation protecting human rights. then it is an identity which is built on very shaky foundations. Or do conservative Christians have some hidden agenda here which I am just too obtuse

INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT: EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARE, LONDON EI4 5DL TELEPHONE, 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT OR THE PITTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.J.K.

Cricket must face up to glamour

IS IT all over for cricket? Yesterday was the start of the cricket season, but it is no longer the big national watershed it once was. The majority of cricket-watchers already regard the sport, like football, as year-round phenomenon. For them, there has been a lot of rather high-profile cricket played recently in the Caribbean. You have to be a bit of an expert to know that yesterday was the opening of the county cricket season. And you have to be deep into the serious Clem Attlee/John Major minority to have actually attended any of the rain-sodden matches played yesterday.

The days are long gone when the nation meekly accepted that it had two official sports, one for the winter and one for the summer. In any case, the idea of a "national sport", which has a privileged place in the education system and on television, has rightly been superseded by the idea of individual choice in a free market - the rules protecting the "crown jewel" sporting events being designed to offset the monopolistic and unfree aspects of the market in new television channels.

So how can cricket compete in a market where schoolboys almost all want to be soccer stars and clamour to spend large sums of their parents' money on Manchester United's 13th different strip in five years? Premiership football matches are regularly played in stadiums full to capacity, while county cricket players play to empty houses. Cricket in England and Wales is in danger of becoming an old man's game, incapable of supporting a national team which can compete in the world. In recent years the national team has all too easily been dismissed as a joke, although it is worth remembering that there was at one point some genuine uncertainty about the outcome in the West Indies.

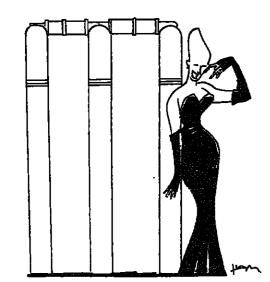
The trouble is that the cricketing authorities have not been nearly radical enough, despite being led by Lord McLaurin, the former boss of Tesco's who ought to know a thing or two about marketing. It is quite bizarre that the England team should go on a tour of the West Indies lasting a full three months, a legacy from the age of ocean liners. And then players like Michael Atherton, England's deposed captain, and Brian Lara, his West Indian opposite number, fly into the drizzle to play for English counties. Not surprisingly, both Atherton and Lara were out for ducks on soggy pitches

One of the reasons why Glamorgan won the county championship last year and are one of the favourites to win this year is because they are a good-enough team; good enough to beat the others, but not so good that they have a lot of England players who are constantly being called away to play internationals.

The cricketing authorities have been through the mill of endless working parties about restructuring county cricket, but the latest blueprint is little more than another rehash of the same elements. What the sport really needs is to start at the other end, with the cricket that most people actually watch, which is the Test and one-day international matches,

In that sense Kerry Packer had the right idea, perhaps a couple of decades before his time. Cricket needs the big television treatment. It needs glamour, stars and eliffhangers. Cricket's real problem is the constraint of time. As the most leisurely

of sports, it has to compromise most to fit into the squeezed spaces of peo



ple's leisure time and the limited hours of broadcast airtime. But the important compromises have already been made, and the purists' defences against coloured outfits, one-day games and floodlighting have all been breached. In the modern multi-sport, multi-channel world, these breaches are all necessary to cricket's survival in competition with pre-packaged American television sports. Rabid commercialism is not incompatible with the idea of a game be-

ing a "national" sport, however, in the sense of selling itself as "the most popular". Soccer has shown the way in this country and American football and baseball have demonstrated it to excess in the United States. But if cricket is to retain a claim to any sort of primacy, it is going to have to take its television audience more seriously.

Secrets of Blair's sofa Cabinet

ANY constitutional expert will tell you that the governance of Britain lies not in Parliament or in the Cabinet but that the really important decisions are taken in Cabinet committee. Now open government has taken another faltering step and the latest list of memberships has appeared on the 10 Downing Street website (which gives the first clue to where power rests).

The temptation to go in for beauty-contest analysis is too great to resist. For the record then, Peter Mandelson is still top, despite not yet besist. For the Cabinet, sitting on 15 of the 27 committees. He is followed by John Prescott on 14, Gordon Brown 13, Jack Straw 12, Lord Irvine 11, and Robin Cook on 10. Tony Blair himself is only on tour, which is curious for a prime minister accused of being such a control freak and

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that, just as real decision-making moved out of Cabinet, it is now moving beyond Cabinet committees. Following out or Carriers of the last year, it would seem that the real decisions are made on the sofas in the back room of Number 10, and the real commitmade on the real committair Campbell, Peter Mandelson, Jonathan Powell and Derry Irvine. Of these, only Mr Mandelson is an elected politician.

What should be on the Internet, if we really were to have open govwhat should be the daily lists of those who have waited upon the prime ministerial sofa.

Help for Iraqis

PLEASE FIND enclosed a cheque for the sum of £5,000 in support of your appeal to help Iraq's innocent children. We want to take this opportunity to emphasise the distinction that Kuwaitis make between the people of Iraq and the regime of Saddam Hussein.

This distinction has been manifested in several ways. For example, in 1995, during his official visit to the UK, the Amir of Kuwait donated £500,000 to the AMAR Appeal that Emma Nicholson set up to help the destitute Iraqi refugees in southern Iran. The Amir also called for a joint effort on the part of the Arab govemments to find ways to get food and medical supplies directly to the Iraqi people, without having to go through Saddam's regime.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society regularly provides aid to Iraqi refugees in Iran and has also sent relief to the Kurds in Northern Iraq. These unpublicised humanitarian initiatives preceded all others from the Middle East.

The international community as a whole has shown great concern for the Iraqi people, but such concern has constantly met Saddam Hussein's intransigence and delaying tactics. The report of the UN Commission that was set up to assess the living conditions of ordinary Iragis led to Security Council Resolution 706 of 15 August 1991. This allowed the Iraqi government to export \$1.6bn worth of oil every six months.

The Iraqi dictatorship, however, refused the application of this and subsequent "oil-for-food-and-medicine" resolutions in a deliberate effort to use the suffering of the Iraqi people as an instrument of blackmail to pressurise the international community into removing the sanctions completely. Saddam aimed to achieve this before the UN Special Commission completed its work of disarming his weapons of mass destruction.

In fact, it was only after the suffering and hardship began to undermine his position by affecting the state apparatus, which he relies on to maintain his power, that Saddam agreed to implement the "oil-forfood" resolutions.

Please accept this donation as symbolic of our deep concern for the protracted and dreadful suffering of the Iraqi people, who are the victims of and helpless pawns in Saddam Hussein's reientless game plan. Dr SA'AD AL-AJMI

Kuwait Information Centre Embassy of the State of Kuwait London SW7

Legal heroin

THE Rev Peter Green has called on the Government "to consider legalising heroin" (report, 15 April).

Heroin has never been illegal in treatment of terminal pain. The 1967 Act and accompanying regulations did not make the prescribing of heroin for addicts illegal, but restricted such prescribing to those doctors with a licence from the Secretary of State. It was the reduction of heroin prescribing, on the advice of certain doctors at the Department of Health, which led to the present sit-

Where doctors have reverted to the Rolleston principles, which governed British heroin policy from the 1920s until the late 1960s, and have prescribed heroin, the crime rate, the incidence of HIV infection and in some cases the rate of new addicts have declined significantly. By contrast, the policy of prohibition has. as some of us warned 30 years ago, led to the escalation of the criminal market. In spite of earlier warnings. Britain has followed American policies in this area where they have most

conspicuously failed. Heroin is a safe drug when administered in clean conditions. Having worked with heroin addicts for 35 years, I have never known anyone die from heroin as such. I have known hundreds who have died from the adulterated material, the impurities, and the social condiused to treat and rehabilitate addicts now have a generation of children and to educate children about the who appear to believe that heroin is dangers of heroin and other drugs no worse than cannabis. Why is any-(including alcohol). If they then one surprised? chose to go ahead and use drugs, at JONATHAN JONES least they would be making an informed choice (albeit a stupid one) and they wouldn't be criminalised for . Glass houses

Mariam Hamza, the four-year-old girl whose arrival in Britain this week for leukaemia treatment pro-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number

Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are

asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

vided a powerful symbol of the Iraqi people's suffering

tions in which the illicit material is

taken. The case for bringing heroin

back within the framework of what

we were once proud to call the

produced by the Board for Social Re-

sponsibility in 1986, the last publi-

cation on drugs from an official

Church of England source was my

own booklet The Drug Subculture: a

Christian Analysis, in 1969, which

the period from 1975 onwards yields

no reference to drugs at all. In the

absence of any official view, Fr

Green's view is therefore one An-

glican viewpoint which hopefully

I AGREE entirely with the Rev Pe-

should also be taxed and the revenue

State for International Development.

think the coast is clear at home"

— Terry Major-Ball.

"In opposition, I found toadying Tories creepy. I

wouldn't have expected Labour MPs to be the

same, but they are - Clare Short, Secretary of

"Some men dash for the shelter of a local hostelry

at the first gathering clouds of a domestic argu-

ment. Not me. I slip out quietly and head for the

local Homebase, where I scan the shelves until I

"Buckingham Palace is, frankly, ugly and cold, with

an unpleasant sort of design. It is not the sort of

The Rev KENNETH LEECH

St Botolph's Church

London EC3

Apart from an information pack

"British system" is a strong one.

Utrecht, Netherlands

warned of the dangers of abandon- BEFORE we get carried away into ing heroin prescribing. Scrutiny of the legalising heroin we need to ac-General Synod index of papers for knowledge the innate weakness of Palace of 1851. human nature. When abortion became legalised and contraceptives freely available the result was a tenfold increase in the number of unwanted conceptions. Self-discipline know that his magnificent building will contribute to a long-overdue destructures to help us avoid addictions that do not solve our search for lasting happiness.

M W MARWOOD Wymondham, Norfolk

AFTER years of pretending that ter Green. In fact, I think heroin

(Greenwich and Woolwich, Lab) cannabis is no better than heroin we House of Commons

NICK RAYNSFORD MP

Jeremiahs.

QUOTE UNQUOTE place you would take to your heart and it should

hope yet for a new religious revival"

- Auberon Waugh.

Oxford

SEAN O'GRADY was clearly so car-

ried away by his thesis ("Nothing new

silenced the prophets of doom who

forecast disaster for the Great Ex-

great Dome in Greenwich will. I am

sure, have a similar effect on today's

hibition in 1851. Richard Rogers'

be destroyed" - Barry Sheerman, Labour MP, who is launching a Millennium Destruction Challenge. "William Hague's announcement that he stays away from church most weeks must offer the best

Tony Banks has gone through fascinating changes as he accepts new responsibilities. We might just discover he is a repressed Spurs fan" - Arturo Varchevker, Psychoanalyst, on the Sports Minister, a devoted Chelsea supporter.

Lessons from Ulster

THERE ARE two features of interest in the proposals for Northern

The electoral system for the Northern Ireland Assembly is the single transferable vote, which enables electors to choose between candidates as well as parties, while retaining the geographical link between members and their constituencies.

There is to be a human rights commission to provide an affordable mechanism for people to assert their rights under the European Convention on Human Rights once this has been enacted into domestic

Why are the rest of us in the UK being denied these benefits? PHILIP GOLDENBERG Woking, Surrey

IF THE Unionist hardliners succeed in wrecking the Northern Ireland peace process, may we then have a referendum here to decide if the province should remain in the United Kingdom? J W BELL Ilkley, West Yorkshire

IAN PAISLEY is most fully himself when he says "No". Perhaps some smart drafting of the referendum question might help. How about "Do you reject the peace agreement"? SEAN MACKEN Harrow, Middlesex

Nightingales are back

IT MAY be true that nightingales are becoming generally more scarce (report, 16 April), but the reverse seems to be the case in this area. Several can usually be heard on and around Layer Breton Heath, south of Colchester, from early May onwards, which has happened only in the last 10 years or so.

Essex Naturalists' Trust reserve at Fingringhoe Wick on the Colne es-Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid tuary is a very well-known nightingale haunt. Some appear to have forgotten their skulking habits: they will continue to sing from small oak trees, clearly visible in broad daylight, often within feet of the observer. TIM DENNIS Birch, Essex

Lonely dogs

SO THE growing number of the nation's dogs who are believed to be suffering from separation anxiety are to be treated with drugs to enable them to accept the long absences of their owners at work (report, 16 April). How long, one wonders, will it be before the nation's childcare "experts" advocate a similar course of action for the increasing number of children under three who, being under the Dome", 16 April) that he has left us with the delightful image deposited for long hours in day nurseries whilst their mothers are "at of Paxman (sic) building the Crystal work", are also at risk of developing both separation anxiety and attach-I have no idea how Joseph Paxton would have measured up as a

Mrs CHALEXANDER Brentwood, um been available to him. But I do

List in 'Time'

YOU TAKE Time magazine to task for its "all-white, North Atlantic" quintet of leaders and revolutionaries who most influenced world events this century (leading article. 6 April). Time in fact named 20 such leaders and they include Mohandas Gandhi, Ho Chi Minh, Ayatollah Khomeini, Mao Tse-tung, Nelson Mandela, the Unknown Rebel (of Tiananmen Square) and Martin Luther King. CHRISTOPHER REDMAN

Editor Time Atlantic

London WC2

Moore is less

I REVELLED in Tom Lubbock's assault on the inflated reputation of Henry Moore (14 April). I have always maintained that we needed Moore like we needed a hole in the **BEVISHILLIER**

London WC2

LETTER from THE EDITOR

I SPENT Easter weekend in our new family cottage in Normandy. Our family, I ought to explain is a bit on the complicated side. The cottage used to be owned by my step-son's mother, the late novelist Jill Neville, and it is now owned by her son Luke (my step-son), my daughter, Daisy, and my stepdaughter, Miranda, daughter of an earlier partner of the man who was successively married to Jill and me. Clear?

On a cold and rainy Easter Saturday morning we all went to sign the sale documents at the offices of the local notaire. Like most people confronted with our complex step-family arrangement, she was puzzled. Step families just aren't meant to work so well. It is nice to be the exception that proves the rule. The notaire's office was in our local town, St Georges D'Onay, a community that was obliterated in the days following the D-Day landings on the beaches around Arromanches. 10 miles to the north. The area is almost devoid of tourists. The many rural graveyards are a sad record of the civilian deaths that occurred in the ghastly June days following the invasion.

Twenty-four years later, there was fighting of a different kind in France: the student riots of 1968, when 10 million workers went on strike and France was plunged into civil chaos. One of Jill Neville's best books.. The Love Germ (reissued this month by Verso, to celebrate not only her life but the 30th anniversary of the riots), wonderfully captures those heady days in Paris when lawyers and doctors and intellectuals briefly joined forces with biue-collar workers to challenge the entire political system.

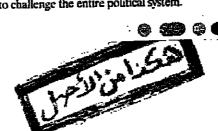
Jill was then the girlfriend of Angelo Quattrochi, an Italian anarchist and poet, who reported the May 1968 revolution for the Italian newspaper Avanti. Angelo's reports, also reissued by Verso under the title The Beginning of the End, form a perfect accompaniment to Jill's exuberant novel. Jill and Angelo lived together in the Latin Quarter, and while Angelo (in The Love Germ he appears as the heroine's scruffy lover, Giorgio) dodges police and tear gas, Jill's autobiographical heroine, Polly, wrestles with her desires to be free and liberated while also fetching wine, washing dirty socks and scrubbing Giorgio's back as he reclines in her bath after a hard day manning the barricades. Brilliantly, she recalls this year of change, with Paris's turmoil the perfect background to what clever, intellectual women the world over were struggling to achieve: Giorgio might be fighting on the brick-strewn boulevards to bring down the system and change the world, but in the kitchen and the bedroom he wanted his women well and truly in their place.

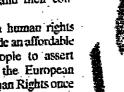
TWO MONTHS ago. Robert Fisk reported on the plight of cancer-stricken children in Iraq. His accounts were moving and provocative - not least because at that time this country was on the verge of raining down more bombs on Iraq, and it was felt, the high incidence of childhood cancers, especially leukaemia, might just have something to do with previous allied onslaughts against Saddam's people.

Reading Robert's gripping accounts I was overtaken by rage

and helplessness: here we go again, flying in more deadly cargoes when what we should be doing is sending medicines to help these children. We all felt the same. Standing by the newsdesk someone said: "It's all very well putting this in the paper but shouldn't we try and do something?" There and then, without consulting anyone and with ten minutes to go to deadline we launched The Independent's Iraq appeal. So far, we have raised more than £83,000, further increased today by a £5.000 donation from Kuwait - see letter above. The money will shortly be used to buy drugs to send to more than 2,000 children suffering from leukacmia caused by weapons used during the Gulf War.

Last week, one child, Mariam Hamza, aged four, was bought out of Iraq, to Britain for treatment by the MP George Galloway. In the higher reaches of Whitehall, I hear, reaction to Galloway was one of lofty disdain: a maverick who should not be playing games with the enemy. "Best to leave it to us, dear boy", was the diplomatic line. Unfortunately, while our mandarins play their games, children like Mariam are dying. At The Independent we fully recognise the threat posed by Saddam, but we also feel for the innocent children of his country, who pose no danger to anyone and who are suffering dreadfully. If that suffering has been made even worse by the Gulf War, then surely we must help, mustn't we?





















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Do you need a First Minister or a Mayor? I'm available ...



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** SUBMITS A JOB APPLICATION

IT'S Trevor Phillips' fault for fannying around. My fellow columnist and old friend has had plenty of time to confirm or deny that he wants to be the first Mayor of London, and has steadfastly refused to be drawn. Well, scruple is all very well, but time is running out. Someone needs to mount a convincing challenge to Lord Archer's burgeoning campaign; someone who is the novelist's equal in charisma and intellect. And that someone, dear readers, I would humbly submit, is me.

I should say, from the outset, that the mayoralty of the capital is not the only office that I will be contesting. One of the many achievements of the current government since the election has been to create. a number of intriguing posts for men and women of a particular talent. There are many of us who recognise that we are not cut out to be, say, Prime Minister or Chancellor of the Exchequer. The sums of money are too large, the problems too intractable, the evenings too cluttered

with celebrities. But neither can we stomach the sense of futility and powerlessness which must be the common experience of all but the most deluded of back bench MPs. So we have been searching for the happy medium, the job that confers just sufficient puissance, prestige and reward to motivate, without requiring one to meet with Benjamin Netanyahu or Bernie Eccle-

stone. Thanks to Mr Blair there will shortly be no fewer than four such positions available, all of them attractive in their own way. There is the First Ministership of Scotland. And who (if you will forgive the play on words) would not want to be the first First Minister of such an attractive country? Unless, of course, one was already the First Secretary of the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff. Both will inhabit nice, purpose-built new offices and have a few billions to spend, while not having to

worry about armies and chemical warfare. Penultimately (though we should not count our chickens) there looks set to be a First Minister for Northern Ireland.

I am not over optimistic about my chances of winning any of these three Firstships. For a start I am not Welsh, Scots or Northern Irish - and while birth seems to be no impediment for outsiders in London, it appears to be a considerable handicap for Londoners outside. Also I have first to contest - and then to win - seats in the relevant assembly or parliament, and so far I am not having much luck in wooing the electors of Knoydart West, Lianfihangel Central or the Giant's Causeway. I am worried too, that the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party may elude me.

Which leaves London, And what a marvellous job that is! A budget of £3.3bn (enough to make a difference, not so much that you lose track of it), a salary of 90 grand (less than an editor, but more than a columnist) and a staff of 250 (impressive but manageable). Furthermore, in addition to the two main functions (getting tough with motorists and trying to attract the Olympics to London), the Mayor is charged with "promoting biodiversity". Well. I can hardly think of anything that I'd rather

So why me? I am a Londoner who has lived in the capital so long that I've even managed a stint south of the river. I often appear on television (though always after midnight, for some reason) and am familiar with its little tricks and artifices. I am a reasonable public speaker which, given the stipulation that "there will be a sixmonthly opportunity for voters to question the Mayor directly, is not nimportant

My manifesto will include commitments to pedestrianise the whole area from Knightsbridge in the west to the City in the east, to charge motorists from the suburbs £20 a time for entering London at all (the revenue raised to be spent on new cycle-only roads), and to outlaw company parking altogether. I will also establish London at the Cutting Edge of the new global information economy, though I am working on the details of that right

So why am I telling you all this? Well, because I need your support. Though journalists wishing to go into politics are not as rare as they used to be, they still face a great deal of suspicion from conventional politicians. Look at how nasty that appalling MP Diane Abbott has been about Trevor, writing him off as a broadcaster and journalist, who has done nothing more than run the National Union of Students. Maybe Diane, but that still puts him up one big one on you!

Also, like Tony Blair, I am not over-enamoured of the Labour Party, whose backing I need to be able to win. Unfortu nately, unlike Tony Blair, I am therefore not a member of the Labour Party (my mother always said that I had a tendency towards pedantry). Which means that I have somehow to convince the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party that it would be a good idea were they to make me their candidate. A tall order,

But not if you help me. If every reader of this column writes to The Prime Minister, c/o Alastair Campbell, 10, Downing St, etc, and urges him to throw his weight behind my mayoral campaign, I think I can do it. Really.

So remember - "double A for London". Thank you.

Does any movie have the right to call this brave man a coward?



TREVOR PHILIPS

TITANIC LIES IN FICTION

IF YOU were defamed, what would your reputation be worth? Or to put it precisely. what sort of damages would a court award? Nelson Man-dela's would probably get a sum equal to the Bank of England's gold reserves; Bill Clinton might get the price of a good night out at Stringfellow's: Jonathan Aitken would almost certainly have to pay back a large whack of his fortune, since his reputation is now a minus. It's a good game; but for the relatives of the first officer of the Titanic it has become a rather grim one.

The young man, named William Murdoch, died on the original boat. In the movie he is portrayed as a craven coward, panicked into shooting two passengers, and then himself. The truth is that Murdoch was apparently as brave as they come, and acquitted himself with honour in the evacuation. He saved several lives and even gave up his own lifebelt so that another could survive. His family has demanded that his reputation be restored by the film's makers. This seems only reasonable; it appears that they told the filmmakers that they had got it wrong before the production was shot, yet no changes were made to the script. As a result there are now literally hundreds of millions of people who probably believe that Murdoch was a villain, and who, were they ever to meet any of his relatives, would treat them accordingly.

such a successful movie. The family wanted a correction at the end of the video. What they got was an apology and a small donation to First Officer Murdoch's memorial in his home town of Dalbeattie. The family and local people are naturally dissatisfied. Surely, any man or woman's memory is worth more than such a small gesture.

However these are the days of historical revisionism in the service of entertainment. A shudder went through me when I heard that Hollywood's archconspiracy theorist. Oliver Stone, plans to "do" Martin Luther King next. I can't imag-



The real, brave, William Murdoch, First Officer on the Titanic

Frank Ryan

ine who will be in the firing line for that; the CIA. LBJ. the KKK, and Malcolm X probably. Yes, Malcolm died first but in a Stone movie anything is doubt? I know that this would be a hard one to sell to the victims of Pol Pot or Adolf Hitler;

be afforded the benefit of the southern sassenachs of Soho. In its details this is a complex arthere is inequity is undeniable, but even for those who seem to and that is perhaps as much as

I myself have become a minor villain in Scotland this week merely for pointing out that the country's citizens do carry a rather large premium in public expenditure

But historical revisionism benefit from trying to reassess. even understand those we have dismissed as evil beyond redemption. How many historical villains could be rehabilitated if we applied the process of the courts to their reputations?

Could Judas Iscariot now go to a heavenly judge and claim that he was misunderstood? After all, he may genuinely have thought he was doing the right thing. And anyway, he was part of the plan dreamed up by the Big Man himself.

Is there any candidate for public obloquy who should not

values that we have started to forgive the unforgivable? I would not argue for endless Trials of ..., but having been involved in one such "trial" in the last few days (that of Enoch Powell, by no means a simple black and white case) I can say that such reassessments can

I myself seem to have become a minor villain in Scotland this week merely for pointing out that the country's citizens carry a rather large premium in public expenditure - they get some 30 per cent more out of the public purse than do the soft

be surprisingly illuminating.

be open and shut cases, should I should expect to get across. we not from time to time revisit However, having spent the The task of making recom- doesn't have to be all bad; per- the great evils of our history, if week being treated as though pense should not be huge for haps instead of tearing down only to reassure ourselves that I had personally applied the exheroes, we might occasionally we have not so degraded our ecutioner's blade to William Wallace's neck, I am beginning to have my doubts about the wisdom of bothering to say anything even remotely complex in public. The fact that it's complex doesn't make it untrue; but public debate is now painted in bright, bold, primary colours with no room for texture or subtlety. So he it.

I do not, of course mind notoriety. The medium in which I work, television, is no place for namby-pamby subtlety: the current vogue for fly-on-thewall documentaries is driven by the delicious spectacle of secing characters whom we think we have come to know well being humiliated. They may be learner drivers, hotel waiters, holiday reps, or just yebs on holiday; but the simple charm of seeing hateful people humbled has not yet failed to attract the public. But are the media now having to turn relatively normal people into monsters in order to feed the public appetite for their execution? It is at the point at which such unknowns as William Murdoch become famously bad in order to make the story work that I start to become queasy.

This does not mean that we can never talk about evil without pretending there are two sides to every coin. In real life there may be few people who can legitimately be described as all bad. However, creative art should have the right to create characters and evoke scenes which sicken us; that is the artist's job, in part - to hold up to the light those aspects of our lives we'd rather not face, and showing them in their undiluted wickedness. The woman artist who has decided that the purchasers of her work must perform some sexual act with her may well be making an important statement about the relationship between artists and their patrons: on the other hand she may just be sensationalising bad paintings, or just, metaphorically speaking. nulling all our plonkers. As long as she doesn't frighten the horses, she should be allowed to get on with it.

Similarly, it slightly depresses me to hear the chorus of howls at Eric Clapton's evocation of domestic violence, "Sick and Tired". On that song he wonders whether he should blow a woman's brains out, singing: "Then you won't bother me no more." Does anybody imagine this is not part of the human experience today? There is no encouragement to such a step in the song, and in Clapton's music there is no glamour in its presentation. The complainants are missing the point.

Of course, we need to treat real people with integrity and sensitivity. But imagining that we can eliminate human evil. weakness, and frailty by shutting our eyes to their presence is the sort of thinking that drove the Titanic to its doom. We will never avoid icebergs if we tell ourselves that they are not there.

British food is now edible, but in France ...

The French restaurant in-



show

CLAUDIA RODEN

THE FOOD OF NATIONS

WHEN I first came to London in the 1950s to study art at St Martin's I could not believe food could be so awful. I had just spent three years in a Paris Lycée as one of the few weekly boarders. The state school catered for 2,000 pupils but we were given wonderful threecourse meals with wine every day. On the weekly outings with my brothers and other Egyptian students we ale for very little money delicious food at little bistres you could then find on every corner.

Things have changed so much in both Britain and France that some people think the situation is reversed. But has British food really come so far licious and exciting but it can in our new "cool Britannia" that

it now surpasses that of our French neighbours? From the Middle Ages

when French cooks headed the kitchens of the royal courts of Europe up to the Eighties, when every embassy and every grand restaurant in the world offered a French menu, France has dominated the cooking of the planet. Visitors fell in love with the country because its food was the best they had ever

But now the French are worried that the golden age of French cuisine has passed. Italian and other cuisines have replaced it in the affections of the Anglo-Saxon world, and while our burgeoning restaurant scene in London is exploding with extraordinary vitality. restaurants in Paris have been going through their worst times. The American press regularly proclaims that they are archaic and stagnant and that San Francisco, New York, Sydney and London are the new capitals of gastronomy.

Our new Anglo-Saxon cuisine is an eclectic magpie cuisine of ideas and flavours plucked from many different countries. The impetus came from nouvelle cuisine, and now it responds mainly to fashions in California. It is quick and easy stuff which untrained chefs can easily pick up. It can be dealso be a mishmash.

dustry has been going through a crise for several years. This is partly due to the recession. The French are afraid to spend and costs are high. Starred restaurants have been forced into luxurious tableware and decor and a high staff ratio by Michelin. The great ones now rely on tourists - mainly Americans - for 60 per cent of their trade. Like haute couture bouses with their ready to wear lines, top restaurants have opened small histros with their signature charging as little as 120 to 200F. The money they lose in their higher range they make in their lower. The success of those "modern bistros". which have caused a trend and been emulated by young chefs all over Paris, is for the consumers the great silver lining behind the crise. You can eat wonderful food and drink reasonable wines in a pleasant, unfussy, convivial atmosphere

for much less money than in

The large brassieres with their quick all-day service, classic menus and animated ambience are also doing very well. The restaurants that have suffered are those who were not quite great and could not keep their prices down. Some have survived by selling artisanal products, lunch time snacks for delivering in offices and ready meals to take home in the evening. But many have been forced to close.

The root of the crisis is not just economic - it is also social. According to Thierry Demanche, head of the Ecole de Cuisine Ferrandi, which is part of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the rot started in the Sixties when women were liberated, went out to work, and gave up on cooking. Children ate in school canteens and in the fast food establishments that drove out the old neighbourhood bistros, and at home were given tinned or frozen foods. A whole generation grew up without the

ward-winning food & Drink IN THE INDEPENDENT

Claudia Roden was this week awarded the Glenfiddich Award for Food Book of the Year for her Book of Jewish Food' (Viking). Two of the Independent on Sunday's food writers, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Richard Ehrlich. also won awards; and Simon Hopkinson, whose beefs about British butchers can be found in today's magazine, won the award for Newspaper Cookery Writer of the Year.

memory of good home cooking or what good ingredients taste like. For this generation food is no longer the primary source

The third reason for the crise

is the art of French cooking itself, which has gone through a period of change and trauma, and a crisis of identity. In the Seventies a few top chefs were invited to the World Fair in Japan, and returned with ideas about presentation, which was the origin of nouvelle cuisine. At the time, the Gault et Millau guide (which is as important as the Michelin) championed the movement and pushed cooks to abandon tradition and invent. Where you could previously go on gastronomic tours through France and eat different foods in each region, you began to find the same things everywhere. Now Henri Gault and Christian Millau say they regret what they have done to French cuisine. The French became unhap-

py and wanted their old cuisine back. After a lot of soul searching, manifestos, opinion polls and forums, the overwhelming consensus was to go back to provincial regional French cooking or la cuisine des terroirs. Haute cuisine is now associated with hackneyed, boring dishes which are over-elaborate and heavy with butter and cream sauces. Cuisine des terroirs is a kind of fundamentalism, a going back to roots. It touches a deep cord in French hearts because people have left the land and in these difficult times of high unemployment and financial insecurity, they are nostalgic for the good

things of the past. Modern French cooking is at the same time traditional and inventive. It is the reinterpretation of mostly robust and simply rustic dishes with the lessons of presentation and lightness learnt from novelle cuisine: an appreciation of ingredients at their best as well as a freedom to surprise.

The French have too much to lose if they abandon their rich and varied cooking traditions the most important legacy of a splendid civilisation, and a link with their past. All the media attention around the crise - not a day goes without news of chefs and their exploits - and the fear of loss and globalisation have created a new passion in gastronomy. We should thank them for revitalising the best of the greatest cuisine for our enjoyment.

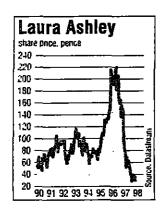
The rest of the world might have gone a long way to challenge the French, but who wants to go round the world and find the same international eclectic cuisine everywhere. Anyway, the best place in the world to eat out is still France - if you know where to



Malays' £44m rescues Laura Ashley

Cit - Correspondent

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled fashion and home furfrom potential financial collapse yesterday when a Malaysian backer agreed to invest £44m in the business in return for a 40 per cent stake. However, analysts still questioned whether the funding would be sufficient to address



the ailing group's problems. MUI, a Kuala Lumpurbased conglomerate with inranging from department stores to cement, is paying 28p per share for 160m new shares. The funds will be used to implement a recovery duce debts and fund capital ex-

The company said its poor performance had led to concerns about breaching its banking covenants and that its banks had refused to provide additional facilities in the US beyond

Spelling out the seriousness of the group's position, the board said it would be sending ing that if investors turned down the rescue package the directors would be "forced ursource of finance".

The lifeline came as Laura Ashley reported losses of £25m



programme in America, re- A Laura Ashley store in west London. The company is striving to reduce price cutting

stores bave been slashing prices

David Hoare, who replaced Ann Iverson as chief executive last year, said: "Obviously the company's record is sobering but we have a good platform and we will take a commercial approach. Some of the things we do will not be very exciting but we believe they will deliver results in baby steps." However, analysts said a

turnaround would take time. haul," one said. "There is no quick fix and I can't see them making a profit for several for last year, debts of £30m and years." Another said: "I just sharp sales declines across its wonder if this is enough of a life-

major markets even though its line. It only enables them to join the Laura Ashley board inclose a few of the larger stores cluding the group's chairman in the US that are causing the and chief executive, Dr Kay problems. Something more radical may have been needed but Ashley is one of the world's I don't imagine there was a queue of suitors out there."

Sir Bernard Ashley, Laura Ashley's widower, has said he will vote in favour of the deal as has Jusco, the company's Japanese investor. The deal means that three investors will control 70 per cent of Laura Ashley shares. MUI will control 40 per cent. Sir Bernard Ashley will see his stake reduced from 35 per cent to 21 per cent and Jusco's stake will fall from

15 per cent to 9 per cent. Four directors of MUI will

pressed some concern that

shares were overvalued and

Yesterday's figures showed

Peng Khoo. He said: "Laura leading brands and has clear potential despite the recent setbacks. We will be a long-term investor and look forward to

belping turn around." Mr Hoare said the group would remain in garments and home furnishings. However it will seek to become a lifestyle brand and continue its policy of licensing and franchising the Laura Ashley name for products such as perfume, sunglasses, watches and paint.

The rescue cash injection

seen in 1987. The gap in trade

sensitive figure, increased to

\$5.3bn from \$4.4bn in January.

main explanation for the dis-

appointing figure. Import vol-

Lower exports provided the

for Texas **Energy bid**

Green light

TEXAS UTILITIES, the USelectricity firm, was yesterday cleared to pursue its £4.4bn bid for The Energy Group, the coal and electricity firm which owns Eastern Electricity, after Margaret Beckett, trade secreary, decided not to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The decision clears the way for the final stage of the battle for control of Energy, which has been raging for almost a year. Pacificorp, another US utility, has also tabled an offer for the group, although its 820p a share cash offer is 20p less than Texas' bid.

Last night, Pacificorp refused to comment on whether it planned to increase its offer. Both bidders effectively have until next Friday to post their final offers to shareholders.

The lack of a response surprised analysts, who said Pacificorp would have been able to plan its response well before the decision was announced.

Energy Group shares jumped 8p to 852p as investors anticipated a renewed bidding war. However US institutional investors were also said to be attracted by Texas Group's allshare alternative offer, which is currently worth about 865p.

ett's blessing, Texas bledged Ofgiven enough information to regulate Eastern Electricity and that the company would be given sufficient resources for the introduction of electricity competition in September.

Energy Group was created as part of the demerger of the Hanson conglomerate, and combines the businesses of Eastern Electricity and

Peabody, the coal producer. Erle Nye, chairman and chief executive of Texas, said he was "delighted" with the decision, adding that Texas' offer "clearly represents superior value for Energy Group shareholders."
Pacificorp and Energy have

been locked in a battle since February, when Pacificorp tabled an agreed 765p a share bid after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruled that it could buy the company. That was trumped by Texas. The two increased their offers until reaching the current staleUffe memb

reduce size

Energy Group's board is refusing to recommend either bid until the two parties have made their final offers.

Both sides have also been buying shares. Texas owns 21.96 per cent of Energy, while Paci-

Power stations shut 'needlessly'

NATIONAL POWER and generators, were in trouble again yesterday with the electricity industry watchdog, who accused er stations unnecessarily.

The two, whose shares were savaged after a profit warning from National Power last month, have been given until 14 May to explain why they cannot keep some station units working.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of electricity supply, wants the two companies to look at leasing out unwanted capacity or operating it on behalf of third parties through a tolling system.

He also accused PowerGen of breaching its licence by failing to give six months' notice for its latest closure of a 675MW unit at Grain. National Power was also criticised for giving notice it intended to close a 35MW unit at Littlebrook on 31 March, the day the closure

-criticism. A spokesman for Napy to explain to the regulator that we did all we could to find third parties interested in these units." them of closing coal-fired pow- PowerGen said it was still talking to potential third party users.

Despite the setback shares of National Power rose 10p to 552p while PowerGen stock shot up 19p to 774p. City analysts said the regulator's intervention was "irritating" but shares had risen to counter the negative overreaction following National Power's warning its profits would be £230m lower than expected this financial year.

Mr Littlechild's primary concern had been the closure of PowerGen's coal-fired generating plants at Ferrybridge and National Power's units at Willington B and Tilbury.

He published an independent assessor's report which concluded the closures were reasonable but questioned why third parties could not have

US deficit adds pressure on Japan

By Diane Coyle **Sconomics Editor**

A BIG INCREASE in the US trade deficit in February prompted new calls for action by the Japanese government from US officials yesterday. Weaker demand for American goods by Japan and other Asian countries took the shortfall between exports and imports to the highest level since the late

Fear of intervention by the Bank of Japan to support the yen kept the reaction in the currency markets muted. The dollar fell further against the ven. yesterday. The FTSE 100 index however, with traders seeing the Y132 as the level that would bring the Bank of Japan back into the market.

The pound fell back with the dollar, losing a ptennig to reach

commitment in principle to joining the single European currency if it is in Britain's economic interest, subject to a referendum "early in the next parliament". In a speech in New York, the Chancellor said: "Our strategy is to prepare and then decide."

A further drop in the Tokyo stock market overnight, the result of concerns about the weak Japanese economy and disappointment about the outcome of this week's G7 meeting, took share prices lower in London ended 80 lower at 5,922.2, the first time in more than two weeks it had closed below the 0.000 mark.

However, Wall Street remained quiet after Thursday's just under Dm3.05. The sterling 86 point fall. Although investors

index fell 0.5 to 107.6, took profits on internet stocks. stock market correction had ar- goods and services climbed to umes climbed by 1 per cent but Gordon Brown repeated which had sizzled higher earli-rived therefore proved prema-\$12.1bn in February, ap-the strong dollar meant that esterday the Government's er in the week, the Dow Jones ture. But analysis noted that the proaching the record shortfalls they fell by 1 per cent in value. index was just 3 points lower at meeting of G7 finance ministers 9.073.58 by late morning. Fresh, earlier in the week had ex- in goods with Japan, a politically though vague, rumours of a merger involving American Express Bank helped prevent could face a sharp fall. shares declining.

Fears that the long-awaited that the US deficit on trade in



Gordon entre, with Eddie Governor. left, and

England chairman Alan Greenspar

to the lowest rate for two With manufacturing slowing and exports also holding back growth, yesterday's figures reassured the financial markets that the Federal Reserve was unlikely to raise short-term in-

terest rates any time soon. The Bundesbank Council left German interest rates un-

results. The figures were dam-

aged by exceptional charges of

£24m including £9m for the clo-

sure of the group's manufac-

turing operations and £9.4m for

the closure of six larger format

stores in the US which were the

brainchild of Ann Iverson. In

two years she steered the group

towards opening 26 per cent

more space in America. But

sales grew by just 4 per cent.

by 15 per cent across the group

in the first 10 weeks for the year

with a 20 per cent fall in the US.

Sales have fallen as the stores

move away from price cutting.

2p higher at 35.5p. They stood

Laura Ashley shares closed

More reassuring were fig-

ures showing that growth in in-

dustrial output was muted last

month, climbing by just 0.2 per

cent. Thanks to earlier revi-

sions, industrial production

rose at an annual rate of 0.9 per

cent in the first quarter of

1998, sharply down from the 7.2

per cent expansion in the final

quarter of last year. Capacity

use in manufacturing declined

Like for like sales were down

Lucky Jim leaves EMI with a £12m payoff

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

EMI yesterday agreed to pay a compensation package of £12m to Jim Fifield, the departing head of its music division in the US, just weeks after denying the package would be anywhere near that sum.

The pay-off follows Mr for a main board director of a not confirmed the figure.

British public company. It brings to more than £30m the sum that Mr Fifield has been awarded by EMI in the last two bonuses, share options and contractual payments.

It follows an estimated pay-off of \$50m (£30m) made by EM1 last year to Charles Koppelman. head of EMI-Capitol Music in Fifield's resignation vesterday. America. However, he was not a and is believed to be a record main board director and EMI has of shares as a result of a "re-

Mr Fifield is known as earned almost £7m last year. "Lucky Jim" because of his lavish pay. His pay-off will include £6.27m for the early teryears in the form of salary, mination of his contract. He will also receive immediate payment of £6.15m for pension contributions. He will be able to exercise his share options. which are worth £2m.

The pav-off comes just weeks after he was given £8.7m stricted share award. Mr Fifield Mesterday in does make sale accordance to the

One shareholder said the pay-off was only what Mr Fifield was entitled to under the terms of his contract but that the package was symptomatic of a wider issue. "The fact is that people earn more in America. And as industries become more

business or pharmaceuticals we are going to keep coming up against this problem." Mr Fifield will not be re-

global, whether it is the music

placed directly but two other board appointments were announced vesterday. Ken Berry, chief executive of EMI recorded music, will join the EMI board along with Martin Bandier, head of EMI's music publishing division. Simon Duffy, finance director, has been appointed joint deputy chairman.

EMI has said it hopes to cover the costs of Mr Fifield's package by the closure of its New York office.

By Peter Thal Larsen

MORE GROUP, the outdoor advertising operator facing a bid from Decaux, the French group, could soon be putting its bus shelters directly outside its rival's UK head office in West London. LT-Adshel, More's joint venture with London Transport, has

won a multi-million pound eightyear contract from Hammersmith Council to provide bus shelters throughout the borough.

lieved to be worth about £3m. in a competition against Decaux with the help of a new design of stainless steel bus shelters. It is now examining the possibility of putting one of the shelters close to Decaux's headquarters on Goldhawk road, "We'll see if we can put the biggest shelter. in London there," said one

More wins bus shelter deal

Decaux's bid to the Monopolies next two weeks.

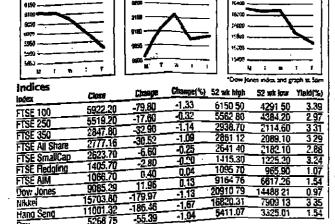
More employee.

Austria (schillings)

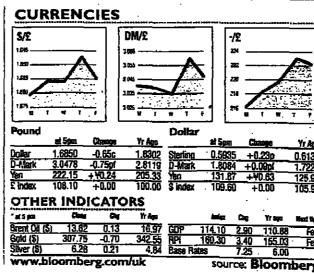
More won the contract, be- and Mergers Commission, Opponents of the deal argue that it would bring together the two dominant players in the market for street furniture - such as bus shelters and street toilets - giving local authorities no choice of supplier. But Decaux insists this is just one small part of the outdoor advertising market.

Yesterday was the deadline for submissions to the OFT and The Office of Fair Trading is the regulator is expected to examining whether to refer announce its roling within the

STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES UK 10 year gilt Money Market Rates



TOURIST RATES

61.22
2.3652
0.8633
11.37
9.0728
9.9343
2,9736
512.75
1272
1.1743
61.77
5.8156
2945
220.86
6.0227

Maka (Ura)	0.6401
Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.89
Netherlands (guilders)	3.3379
New Zealand (\$)	2.9172
Norway (krone)	12.38
Portugal (escudos)	301.76
Saudi Arabia (dals)	6.1685
Singapore (\$)	2,5682
Spain (pesetas)	251.35
South Africa (rands)	8.2174
Sweden (krone)	12.80
Switzerland (francs)	2.4795
Thailand (bahts)	59.63
Turkey (firasi)	402.025
USA (S)	1.6536
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Source: The	mas Coo

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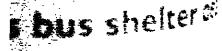
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WARNER ON WHY the Marine White Law and COMMUNITARIAN CAPITALISM MAY BE THE WAY OF THE FUTURE AFTER ALL

Stakeholding gone mad, or is this the future?

HOW ABOUT this for a chairman's statement? "After careful consideration, the board has decided that in future the company will put more emphasis on employment than profit. Our profit margin is going to be 6 per cent - no higher, no lower. If it looks likely we will make more money than expected, then we will take on more orders at lower prices in order to adjust the figure. We are a manufacturing company and the main purpose of what we do is to use facilities and labour in a stable manner and at maximum capacity.

"If we make too much money on what we produce, it drives up the price of other products, which is bad for everyone. The social effects of what we do must be our primary consideration. We will not, I repeat not, give our shareholders precedence. I know that if we were an American company we would come under interise criticism for saying these things, and they get me into trouble with my finance department. But we do not need to advertise to foreigners to get them to buy our stock. If our stock has no appeal for investors, they can sell it straight away. Our employees have no such freedom of choice, and it is primarily for them that we exist."

OK, so no one would say that in a chairman's statement, would they. So shocking would such a thing be for a City or Wall Street audience, that the chairman who did would be hung from the nearest lamppost preneurs a completely free hand in the pur-- no gold watch, no pay-off, no pension. They think differently in Japan, however, and believe it or not, this is what the chairman of one of Japan's biggest companies. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, did say. And only a few months ago too, so the crisis of the Far East and his own domestic economy has plainly done nothing to change his view of how companies should be run.

Up until recently, it was fashionable to look longingly at these shining examples of communitarian capitalism and question why it was not possible to have it here in Britain too. Socially it seemed so much more acexptable than our own market-driven forms of capitalism. What's more, it seemed to be economically more successful too. While our shipbuilding industry withered and died. Mitsubishi thrived and grew, New Labour came to use companies like it as a model for its vision of a "stakeholder" economy in which companies would come to serve the interests of employees and customers as much as investors.

Then came the meltdown in the Far East, which again focused attention on Japan's own particular economic paralysis. The debate has since swung full circle. The American, free market model seems fully vindicated: the best way of creating prosperity and employment is to allow capital to chase the best returns, to give entre-

suit of wealth for the sake of it. Business can only properly serve the community, we now have to accept, if it is selfish and slavishly serves the interests of its shareholders to the exclusion of all else.

Shareholder value has been a persistent mantra throughout my time as a financial iournalist, but I don't recall it ever being in quite such strong and vibrant voice as it is today. We've even got a new derogatory term for the communitarian capitalism of the Far East - crony capitalism - and all right-thinking people now condemn it as corrupt, inefficient, and ultimately doomed. Nothing is for ever, however, and it is

testimony to how strongly embedded in the culture and the national psyche of Japan the old ways are that the chairman of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. Kentaro Aikawa. can still preach this extreme version of stakeholding without so much as a hint of irony. Radical, painful. Western style liberalisation and reform is meant to be in the air, but most Japanese industrialists would continue to insist that the primary purpose of business is not that of serving shareholders; it is the wider interests of company, community and nation that come first.

No wonder the Japanese stock market is in such bad shape. Even so, this way of thinking will not go away. There are very few lessons from history, but one of them

ever. The gospel according to Mr Aikawa will live on and in another time it is going to be rediscovered and reinvented.

It may be that in the distant future, this is actually the corporate model that becomes supreme. Certainly it is hard to imagine the present situation, where corporate profits seem to be grabbing an ever greater share of total wealth, being tolerated for ever. Even with globalisation of national economies, there will eventually be a social and political backlash against the shareholder value purists. No rational human being given a clean sheet of paper would invent an organisation whose sole corporate purpose was to serve the interests of investors; it therefore seems curious that this is the one that. the world over, now calls the shots.

The big British company most often cited closest to the stakeholder ideal is Marks & Spencer, Yet even M&S doesn't really fit the Mitsubishi bill. The philosophy there is not to serve its employees, but to treat employees and customers well so as better to serve the interests of shareholders. This is not quite the same thing. though it may amount to a rather more reasonable compromise between capital and labour than what Mr Aikawa is on about.

A better parallel, though still an inexact one, is with Britain's remaining mutual organisations. With a mutual, the interests

is that no model remains triumphant for of customers and shareholders are identical, since in most cases it is the customers who own the business. The unwritten contract in most of these organisations is that the benefits of mutual ownership are also shared with employees, usually in higher levels of employment than would otherwise he tolerated. So here we are getting closer to what Mr Aikawa is talking about, an organisation that is willing to go along with periods of uneconomic activity and investment, to tolerate a degree of inefficiency, if that is judged to be in the long-term interests of the company as a whole employees as well as customers.

Montal ownership does not translate well into businesses outside financial services. In any case, for this philosophy of business to work in a joint stock company, as it traditionally has done in Japan, requires a level of social cohesion and purpose, and a structure of ownership, which is altogether absent in the Anglo-Saxon world. But never say never. Look long, long into the future, and it may be that capitalism will have moved significantly in this direction. driven there as much by the cause of self preservation as any sense of altruism. The American way will not always rule. It looks unlikely now, but some variation of the Asian model may eventually end up triumphant, even here in the West. But not in our lifetimes.

Liffe members vote to reduce size of board

MEMBERS of Liffe, London's financial futures and options exchange, have voted overwhelming to restructure the management. At an extraordinary general meeting on Thursday evening, 88 per cent voted to reduce the size of the board from 24 to 18 or 19, and 99 per cent voted to install a full-time chairman, expected to be paid up to £500,000 a year. Members voted unanimously to cut all links between non-executive directors of the Liffe board and the exchange membership. Liffe management is trying to address a crisis of confidence at the exchange, which has been losing market share to the Deutsche Terminborse, the German futures exchange.

£1.8m for L&G chief

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE of Legal & General, the insurance group, was awarded a package worth almost £1.8m in 1997. David Prosser's package included a £1.06m profit on the sale of share options, a salary of £400,000, a cash bonus of £180,000 and a deferred bonus of £80,000. Total board remuneration, excluding pension contributions and gains on share options, rose 18 per cent to £2.4m.

Perpetual down on denial

THE CHAIRMAN of Perpetual, the UK fund manager, denied his 19 per cent stake in the company was for sale. Martyn Arbib least £35m. said: "I have not been involved in any talks regarding any disposal of my personal shareholding in the company and the recent press speculation is unwelcome." Reports have suggested he was conselling his stake to Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank. Perpetual shares finished the day down 217.5p at 4027.5p.

UniChem up II pc

Alliance UniChem, the drugs distributor chaired by the former Chancellor Kenneth Clark, announced an 11 per cent rise in pretax profits to £59.2m in 1997. The group is planning to expand in Europe after completing a £280m merger with Alliance Sante, the French group.

Proxy battle for Lonrho

A US money manager is seeking to overturn a recent vote taken by Lourho, the mining group, to buy back shares and dismantle the group. Adrian Day, president of Global Strategic Management, said US shareholders were not sent proxies to vote.

Akzo to raise £584m

Akzo Nobel, the Dutch chemical group, said yesterday that it was asking shareholders to give it authority to raise an extra 2 billion guilders (£584m), creating speculation that it was about to mount a bid for Courtaulds, the British chemicals group, with which is already holding takeover talks. "We are creating more room for future possibilities, but nothing is planned," a spokesman said.

Shandwick keeps talking

SHANDWICK International, the public relations firm, said it was still in talks regarding a potential takeover of the group. The group said at its AGM that it has a strong new business book which should result in "satisfactory" progress for the second half of the year.

COMPAN'	Y KESUL	13		•
-	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividenc
Laura Ashiey(F)	344 9m (327.5m)	-49.3m (16.23m)	-20.87p (4.28p)	- (-)
Allgane Unicken(F)	1.71m (1.49m)	59.2m (53.5m)	22.3p (30.2p)	9.7p(B.8p)
Anglo Welsh Group(F)	2.70m (1.41m)	0 366m (0.092m)	12.9p (416.1p)	3.00p (-)

ARM float bonanza

By Peter Thai Larsen

ARM, the computer chip design company based in Cambridge, enjoyed a sparkling debut on the London Stock Exchange yesterday. Shares in the company, which were originally priced at 575p, ended the day at 820p, up 42 per cent, having briefly touched 1,000p.

The flotation means a bonanza for ARM's 300 employees, who between them own a 10 per cent stake in the company which is now worth at

The success of the issue demonstrates the growing interest from European investors in technology companies. Although ARM opted for a dual listing on the London and Nasdaq exchanges, a substantial chunk of the shares were taken up by European investors.

The flotation was so popular that Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank managing the flotation, twice increased the issue price. The original pricing range was set between 325p and 385p a share. The company has attracted

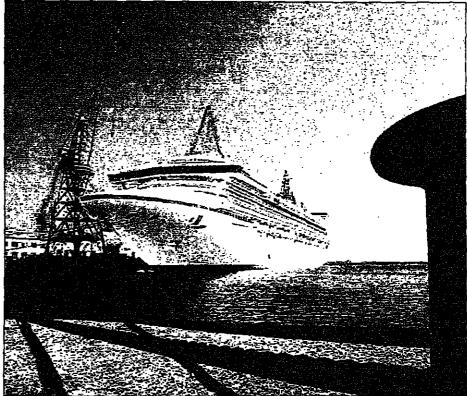
a sky-high share price rating. Last year. ARM made after-tax profits of around £3m on sales of £26.6m. Friday's closing price values the company at more than £375m.

"Nasdaq is a good hightech market, but the majority of our employees are in the UK." said Robin Saxby, ARM's chief executive. "Wherever we have been we've had a very high level of interest."

ARM designs powerful efficient processor chips, and then licences the designs to chip manufacturers. Due to their low cost and efficient use of electricity, they are particularly popular with manufacturers of portable computers and mobile enones, which depend on bai tery power.

Chips designed by ARM are used in Psion's new Series 5 palm-top computer, and the company has also licensed its technology to Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, for use in its new "smart" mobile phone.

ARM was originally the chip design arm of Acorn, the British computer manufacturer. In 1990, it was spun off as a separate company.



Cruiser: All 2,600 berths in P&O's Grand Princess are booked until the end of the season

Bon voyage, baby boomers

THE BIGGEST cruise ship in the world. Grand Princess, is poised to make her maiden voyage for P&O with all 2,600 berths booked from now to the end of the season in October, writes Terry Macalister. The booming demand from US holidaymakers for the \$430m (£265m) vessel, which starts its first Mediterranean cruise schedule on May 16, underlines the buoyant nature of cruising worldwide. Latest statistics from P&O Cruises released yesterday show that in the first three months of this year forward bookings and yields were well ahead of the same period of 1997. P&O's share price rose 5p to 905p as brokers like HSBC Securities recommended P&O after it said booked revenues and yields for the rest of the 1998 were also advancing. The ship-owner said the average age of passengers on its Princess Cruises subsidiary has slipped below 50 for the first time. This suggests young American "baby boomers" are taking over from the traditional "blue rinse" brigade

FSA could turn out to be a monster, MP warns

By Lea Paterson

THE SHADOW treasury minister warned yesterday that the government's new financial services watchdog could become a "bureaucratic monster",

Michael Fallon MP told the annual conference of the Independent Financial Advisers' Association that Labour's proposals for the new Financial Services Authority had "fundamental flaws".

Labour wants to merge the nine existing regulators for the financial services industry into a single industry watchdog, the FSA. Mr Fallon said: "We have

grave doubts about whether such a large and unwieldy institution will be able to deal effectively and flexibly with the immense responsibilities it will be given.

main focus will be to regulate the retail sector out of existence to the detriment of prudential supervision. Over-regulation will squeeze out innovation and discourage new cutrants to the market."

The shadow minister said he was concerned about the costs of the FSA: "Because it will be funded by the industry it regulates, all costs will ultimately be borne by the consumer. We want a statutory cap on costs."

Hambros closer to break-up | Listen to

By Lea Paterson

THE BREAK-UP of Hambros, the City institution which has fallen from grace in the last few years, moved a step nearer yesterday when it announced the demerger of Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency and life assurance company.

Sir Chips Keswick, Hambros' chairman, said the board was in discussions with "certain interested parties who may be prepared to make a public offer for Hambros" following the Countrywide demerger, due to be completed in June.

The City believes Hambros is aiming at a sale price of more

than 300p a share, valuing the group at more than £530m, alhough analysts believe 280p to 300p may be more realistic.

Hambros said any offer was unlikely to include Hambros Insurance Services (HIS). HIS has appointed the financial advisers DLJ Phoenix Securities to "assist in reviewing all options". Hambros began the break-

up process at the end of last year when it sold its core banking activities to Société Générale (SocGen), the French bank, for £300m. At the time, Sir Chips said the group decided to break itself up because the board "sadly came to the conclusion that we were not making any significant re-

turn to our shareholders". Hambros has had a series of disappointing results, and its name was tarnished by its involvement in Andrew Regan's

failed attempt to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS). After the Countrywide de-

merger. Hambros' assets will include the £231m cash surplus realised on the SocGen deal, a 44 per cent stake in Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management (Guinness Flight), a 52 per cent stake in HIS and a diverse direct investment portfolio consisting of some 50 separate holdings. These include a 18 per cent stake in Corney & Barrow, the wine bar,

and a 25 per cent stake in Centaur, the publishing group.

Sources say it is "a possibility" the remaining assets, with the exception of HIS, will be sold as a single group, although speculation is mounting there will be a management buy-out

at Guinness Flight. Guinness Flight is a joint venture between Hambros and Guinness Mahon, the UK banking group that was recently bought by Investee of

South Africa. Hambros is currently un-

derstood to be talking to a "handful" of interested parties, and it is hoped the business details published vesterday will attract other potential bidders.

RANDOM HOUSE UK is suing Reed International Books. which bought the former's trade publishing division a year ago, over royalty payments in respect of sales the division made before the deal. Random House's writ

UK over the ground floor shop and premises at 78 Strand. London, where Shell is ICB's landlord. ICB claims Shell UK "wrongfully purported to forfeit the plaintiff's tenancy by peaceable re-entry on 13 March 1998. The defendant has secured the premises against the plaintiff and is thereby a trespasser and in wrongful occupation of the premises." ICB demands dam-



The 1998 McCormick Lecture

artin Sorrell is Group Chief Executive of WPP Group, which in 1997 generated a group annual turnover of £7.3bn. Under his leadership WPP has become the worlds leading communications services group, employing 22,000 people, within 30 companies,

In recent years the role of WPP Group has expanded from one of traditional holding company to value added parent company, adding distinct value to clients and even greater opportunities and rewards for its people. By adding value to the centre WPP believe they can demonstrate tangible results.

Martin Sorrell is also an enthusiastic supporter of The Association of MBAs and as a part of the M^CCormick Lecture series, will be giving a talk explaining how WPP is working to ensure that for them, the whole adds up to more than the sum of its parts. The talk will be held

INDEPENDENT

To order tickets or to find out more please call: 0171 837 3375



JOHN WILLCOCK

WHO'S

SUING

WHO



COOPERS & Lybrand, the Big Six accountancy firm, is being sued by 14 financial institutions who are debenture holders in Resort Hotels, a company which crashed four years ago and which was

audited by Coopers. The plaintiffs, which include Axa Equity and Law Life Assurance, Commercial Union Life Assurance and Legal & General Assurance Society, are suing Coopers over a rights issue held two years before the company collapsed.

Robert Feld, head of Resort Hotels, was subsequently jailed for eight years for fraud and forgery. Earlier this month Feld had his sentence cut to six years by the Court of Appeal.

In his original trial Feld was found guilty of lying about the hotel chain's financial position, forging documents and boosting a profits forecast to back up pany, Eagle Star Life Assurance but not served.

a rights issue which raised £20.6m in 1992. Two years later, the company collapsed with debts of £90m. Feld was described by the trial judge, Mr Justice Zucker, as "a man of quite appalling dishonesty".

The 14 financial institutions which issued the writ against Coopers on 30 October 1997 include BZW Securities Gilts, **BZW** Securities, and Barclays De Zoete Wedd. BZW underwrote the rights issue for Resort Hotels. The writ was originally issued in Bristol and was transferred to the High Court in London last week.

City law firm Norton Rose is representing the debenture holders, while Barlow Lyde & Gilbert is representing Coopers. Other plaintiffs named on

the writ include The Equitable Life Assurance Society, Gisbourne Life Assurance Com-

Company, Confederation Life Insurance Company, Scottish Mutual Assurance, The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society, RLAM (Nominees). and the Wesleyan Assurance Society.

There is a separate legal claim for 13m being brought against Coopers & Lybrand by a shareholder action group. over statements made in the prospectus for the rights issue.

SENSITIVE singer-songwriter Peter Gabriel, former lead singer with Genesis, is suing his accountants Baker Tilly. A spokeswoman for the

firm said this week: "We haven't received a writ. If we do so we will vigorously defend it." Mr Gabriel's writ has been issued by Sheridans, a firm of solicitors based in London's West End. The writ has been issued

ago that Nathan & Co (Sheriffs Officers) were being sued by the Under-Sheriff of Greater London and the Under-Sheriff of Surrey in a dispute over fees. This week Nathan & Co have struck back by issuing their

1 WROTE a couple of weeks

own writ against the Sheriffs. Nathan & Co have issued their writ through Manchester law firm Pannone & Partners. They name as defendants both John Peter Hargrove, Under-Sheriff of Greater London, and John Peter Westwood, Under-Sheriff of Surrey, the two people who originally sued Nathan & Co.

The Sheriffs' Officers writ names two other defendants: Burchell & Ruston, a firm, and Claire Sandbrook, "the deputy Sheriff for Greater London for the Shrieval Year ending 31 of March 1998 and the present under Sheriff for the County of Surrey."

was issued via London law firm Fladgate Fielder. A FIRM called International Currency Brokers is suing Shell

ages for trespass and breach of covenant. It issued the writ last month through Fladgate Fielder.

New issues in the spotlight as Footsie falls again

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

running as the stock market traded at 29p. ended a downbeat week.

publisher LLP and fledgling oil brisk trading. The shares were placed at 285p. Desire, seek-Falkland Islands, moved from

a 125p placing to 144p. 1.000p in heavy afternoon trad- prospectus on Monday. ing, settling at 820p. The issue

NEW ISSUES, plus two re- took over the Sexton car turnees, made much of the security group for £10m.

There have been stirrings ARM, a microchip group. on the new issue front in rewas the star performer. But cent weeks with Thomson, the holiday group which could group Desire made impressive be valued at around £1.5bn. debuts. LLP the Lloyd's List and ComputaCenter. apgroup, closed at 347.5p in proaching £1bn, the largest recruits.

Others on the launch pad ing oil and gas around the include AB Airlines, clothing retailers Matalan and New Look and Coca-Cola's Euro-Shares of ARM were pean bottlers. Scientific pubtraded in their when-issued lisher Taylor & Francis had a rough ride, down 34p form. They soared briefly to produces its pathfinder

One of the surprising asprice was fixed during the peets of the strong bull run has Prestbury and Toad were more companies are coming to the shares on the comeback market at a time when equitrail. In busy trading Prestbury, ties have paused for breath. Nick Leslau's new property ve- Many market men feel that hicle, ended at 5.25p. The Footsie, after its storming shares were suspended for 20 per cent gain in just 10 the £103m takeover of a prop- weeks, is in desperate need of

week's four trading days it bas lost 183.3. Weak Far Eastern markets, resurrecting worries about the Asian crisis, and fears of higher domestic interest rates have done the

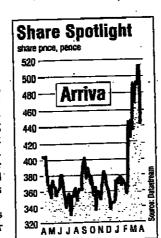
damage. But selling has been light. Indeed trading volume, as befits an Easter week, has been below normal levels.

Arriva the transport group which used to be called Cowie, at 441p. Its warning at Thursday's shareholders meeting that the financial division would struggle to match last morning at 575p, up from early been the relative shortage of year's performance is causing expectations of 325p to 385p. new issues. It is ironic that anxiety. Since the statement the shares have fallen 70.5p. Other leasing groups felt the impact. Lex Service reversed 18.5p to 557.5p and Avis Europe 3p to 223.5p.

Billiton, the minerals group, led the Footsie leader board. up 6p to 172p. Like Rio-

Footsie fell 79.8 points, its Tinto it is a beneficiary of imbiggest one day setback since proving metal prices. Rio lost the start of March. In this at early 26p gain to close at 858p, down 2p; Morgan Stanley put a 950p target on

> PowerGen put on 19p to 774p following the industry regulator's probe into generators; National Power gained 9.5p to 552p. Energy, the electricity group, brightened 8p to



852p after the Government that a 225p offer was on its way. cleared the Texas Utilities

The financial community came in for another roasting. were 219p in 1997. Next, which Standard Chartered fell 64p produced a surprise profitto 940p and Northern Rock warning last month, fell 12p 18p to 634p. Halifax lost 21p to 514p, lowest for 18 months. to 850p. Schroders softened

74p to 2.826p.

Perpetual, the fund manager, tumbled 217.5p to 1.5p to 91.5p. 4,027.5p. Chairman Martyn Arbib said he was not involved in any talks to sell his stake and "I have no plans to reduce my personal holding in Perpetual substantially below as chief of EMI Music its current level". .-

Hambros was little faltered at the close. At one changed at 285p after it sig-time the shares were up 17.5p nalled the end was near. It is as ABN Amro decided this demerging its Hambro week's fall, following disap-Countrywide estate agents pointing figures, had been arm and seeking bids for the rest of the business.

Thorn, the rental group on the receiving end of a bid (some say from the reclusive Barclay brothers), gained 14p to 205p with talk circulating

Retailer Laura Ashley

gained 2p to 35.5p on the

Malaysian rescue. The shares

The shares touched 835p

earlier this year. MFI Furni-

ture's retreat continued, down

after Lehman Brothers sig-

nalled a 1,300p target price but

EMI dipped 17p to 465.5p on

the departure of Jim Fifield

Associated British Foods

overdone. But the perils of

order-driven trading became

apparent and the shares ended

little changed as most trades

were withdrawn towards the

close. Final spread was an as-

tonishing 552p to 610p.

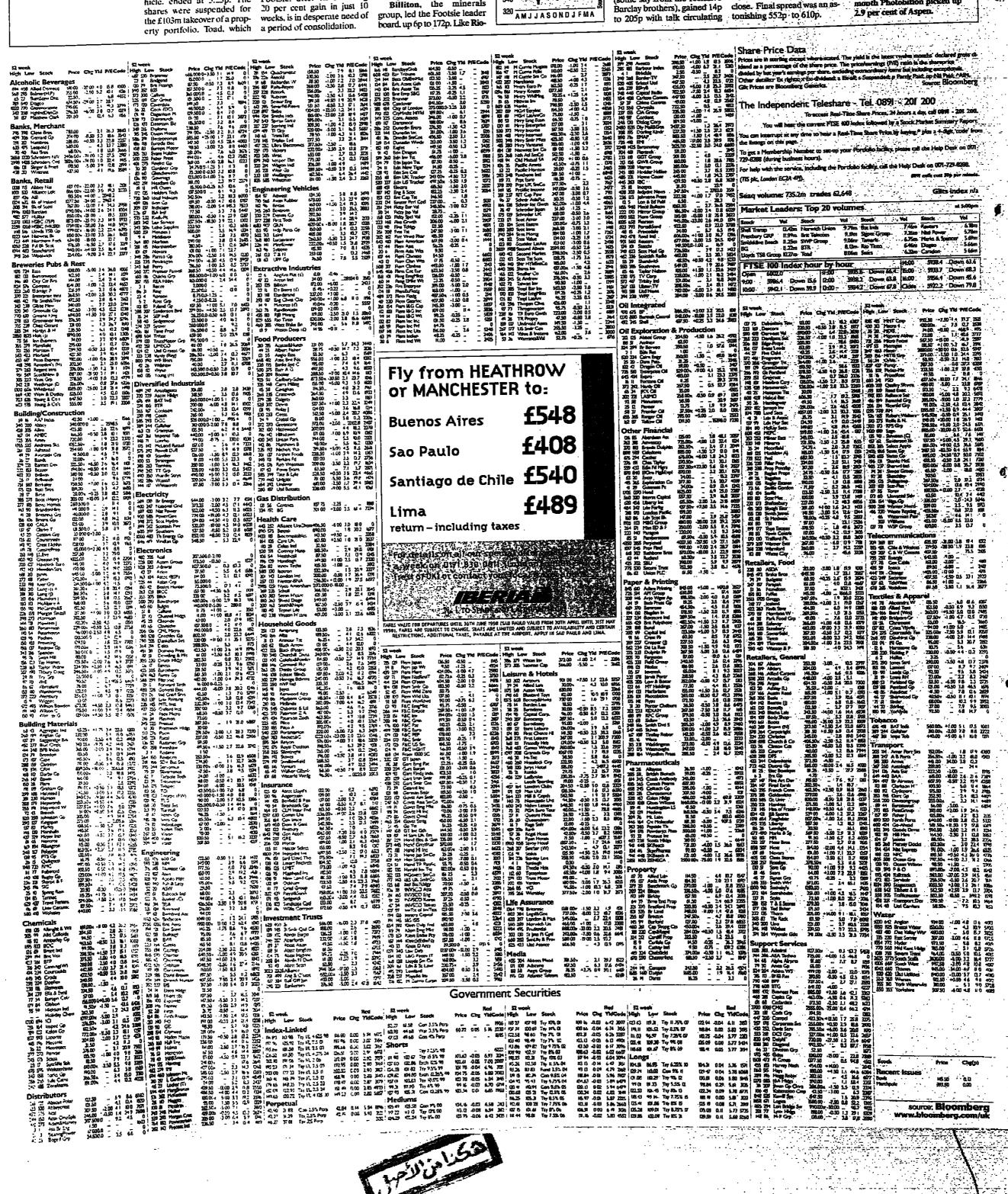
Granada held at 1.067p

INTERNET Technology jumped 13.5p to 89.5p. In February the shares were 38.5p and they ended last week at 58.5p. The past week's strength follows builish comments from SG Securities which expects this year's forecast £1.8m loss to translate into profits of £1.3m and then £7,1m. There have also been rumours Internet is planning to flex its corporate muscles - a bid for Easynet is

TAKING STOCK

POLYPIPE, the building materials group, rose 2.5p to 160p after Charterhouse Tilney forecast strong profits growth. It expects £37.7m in the current year and then £42.5m. Last time the company produced £32.8m. Its shares are near their lowest for more than two

PUBLISHER Aspen fell 5p to 130p after Photobition, off 9.5p at 265p, dropped its takeover approach. Last month Photobition picked up 2.9 per cent of Aspen.





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Valleys find future in old and new



The Rhondda:

lan MacGregor's death revived bitter memories in South Wales this week, but the region is nevertheless being reshaped with a mix of the traditional and the modern

■HE menu advertised Collier's Crisps and Miner's Muffins, Welcome to the Rhondda Heritage Park. This was the inhabitants of South Wales this once Lewis Merthyr Colliery in the week felt a flicker in the future which heart of the South Wales coalfield. that international capitalism Now it is "a lively and evocative multi-media experience for all the fam- Gregor's death, the Korean elecily", complete with a shop full of red tronics giant LG, formerly Lucky dragons and dolls in Welsh national dress. "We've made a pit stop at Rhondda, say its car stickers.

Into the restaurant with its cottagey furniture came a grizzled figure in a donkey jacket and coalencrusted pit helmet. How authentic! A redundant miner - one of 10 touch of verisimilitude to the tour.

But there was nothing sanitised guides to the death this week of Sir down the British mining industry. "Bastard," said one former miner with terranean experience displayed for showing his own payslip for £459. ever on his face, "Best thing he ever did. dving," said Squeaky Williams, the nightshift lampman up at Tower Colliery, the only pit in South Wales to escape the MacGregor axe when a workers' buy-out. "And when Thatcher dies we'll close the pit and all take a day's holiday."

The bitterness runs deep against those who discharged the Thatcherite brief which promoted the interests of international capital above both of compassion for the communities built around the nation's collieries. It was not helped by the fact that

promised. Only the day after Mac-Goldstar, was forced to issue hurried denials after one of its senior executives in Seoul said that, thanks to the Far East financial crisis, it was to postpone the development of its 1.7bn plant on a massive site just down the road in Newport.

It was splendid schadenfreude to employed by the park - to add a the miners at Tower which is now paying high wages, making decent profits and recently paid its 300 employees about the reaction of these tour a £500 dividend. "What kind of future is on offer from these foreign Ian MacGregor, the man who shut firms with their low pay and women's jobs," asked one of the visitors to Squeaky's lamproom. "They take the tiny blue scars of a lifetime's sub- home about £125 a week," he said, Such mythology is powerful, ad-

mitted David Rennie, a senior economist with the Welsh Development Agency. But it paints a faulty picture. "Inward investors [such as its men used their redundancy to stage the Koreans or the 50 Japanese firms in the area] on average pay higher wages than local firms," he said. And although the decline of coal and steel has cost the region 100,000 jobs, a similar number have been created in new industries such as consumer electronics - half the United King-



Showing the way: Former miner Ivor England in his new job as a tour guide for the Rhondda Heritage Park

are now made in Wales.

More typical is the story of Leighton Davies who, after 14 years in the coal industry, has switched to electronics. Happily wearing the LG uniform of fawn slacks and bomber jacket, the 42-year-old showed me round the company's 250-acre site at a rate which takes the breath away.

Mr Davies joined the National Coal Board as a storeman at 19 and was soon the youngest personnel manager ever appointed in the coalfield. But the bulk of his career was the national interest and any sense dom's output of television sets and spent in counselling miners on the

80 per cent of its microwave ovens board's redundancy programme. ties who haven't worked since". The haviour, crime and drugs is the re-When he joined the industry it had more than 50,000 miners; it had only 6,000 when he was laid off too.

"I decided to look for something in the growth area - electronics," he. said. In the past eight years, he has had the pleasure of seeing his workforce double where in mining he saw where buildings are being thrown up it decimated. "They are secure jobs, and a technician can earn £20,000."

Yet for those without skills the decline of coal has left a miserable legacy in the valleys. Many of the redundant miners whom Leighton counselled have done well, "but I know a lot in their thirties and for-

option for them and their sons is jobs sult. A gap has opened between those control morn and you can see it all as security guards at as little as £2 out of work and those in Many peo on the monitors." In the control an hour.

"Either that or the dole, as we still worker and chairman of the Tower Lodge National Union of Mineworkers, over a pint in the Penywaun Club & Institute. The place must have looked welcoming in the old days when it was full, but now it looked bleak in its spartan Formica and leatherette, empty but for a handful of older drinkers. "When they closed the mines they took all the hope out of the young people - anti-social be-

ple are afraid to go out at night." Clean stone, unpolluted air and incall it," said Glyndwr Roberts, a face- active chimneys are but small compensation for those like him who feel cheated of their industry. Everywhere lingers the sense that many of the mines were closed unnecessarily. They shot better pits than this one, said Squeaky, up at Tower.

ing the loss-makers and that the in ... future...

dustry would be left with a dozen or so lucrative pits. After all my pit had just embarked on a major capital investment costing £30m. MacGregor himself came to unveil the plaque. The colliery was making money right up until the day they closed it."

But a political rather than an indistrial decision had been taken. The coal industry became entangled with ideology: smashing the unions, privatisation, freeing up international trade and capital flows were the priorities of the Thatcher government. "The colliery review procedure," said Leighton, "was nothing more than a sham."

There is, in all this, something of a nostalgia for the good old days. One of the Heritage Park's guides, Ivor England - a miner like his grandfather, father, uncles, bruthers and cousins - waxes during the historical part of his tour about the empire on which the sun never set so long as coal was extracted from the Rhondda". History as romantic heritage is on offer in the European Union-funded park along with the replica Davy lamps in shining brass.

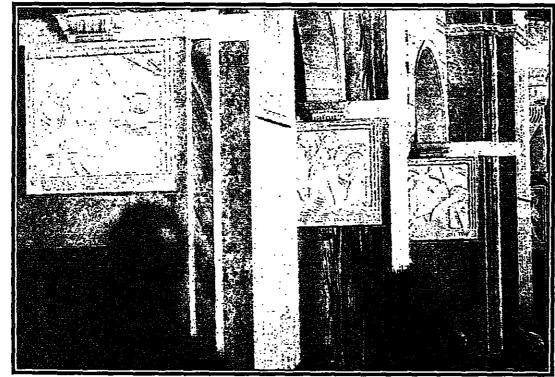
But there is nothing nostalgic about the £30m plan by Tower to sink a new shaft at Margam to mine coking coal for the nearby Port Talbot steelworks. A government sponsored report this week by the Cardiff. Business School says that coal makes a significant contribution to the local economy and suggests a new government framework to support the; industry. Ministers have responded with favourable noises.

On Sundays at Tower Colliery the miners hold underground open. days. Many of the visitors are former niners. "They say the difference in technology is unbelievable, Squeaky told me. Go through to the room the men on duty spoke proudly of how in the past there would be a man underground by every conveyor belt. "Now it's all done by computer and the men underground are all engaged in more productive work," said the controller. "Look at this new cutter - it cost £1.5m. We didn't have that under British Coal."

Mr Davies agrees. "It took me a ... "I looked at the monitors. At the long time to realise that their strat- bottom of each was the word Goldegy was to close everything," he said. star. The Koreans were here too. "At first I assumed that they were clos- Welcome to the murky world of the

TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

INDEPENDENT





Eric Gill slept with his daughters and sisters. Now victims of abuse want his breathtaking carvings removed from Westminster Cathedral. Cole Moreton on a moral dilemma

Plus

- The 10 coolest things about Britain
- Saturday Night Fever is back this time on stage
 - Part two of the ultimate guide to seafood

Monday 20 April 1998

Business Design Centre, London N1

A one day national conference for policy makers in higher and further education to look at the implementation of the Government's proposals on the creation of a University for Industry. It will examine the role that further and higher education institutions can play by working together and with business at a local, regional and national level increasing the skills and knowledge of the workforce, as well as supporting research and development in industry and commerce.

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Parliamentary Under Secretary, DFEE

Rosie Boycott,

Editor, The Independent and The Independent on Sunday

David Brown, Chairman. Motorola Ltd and Chair,

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Simon Sperryn,

Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Higher Education Conferences

INDEPENDENT

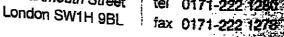


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Week in, week out

If you're a single pig or an elephant who likes the odd lolly, the last seven days have been great. But then there's always good news for animals, writes Andrew R Marshall

It was the best of times, the worst of times. For human beings, this week was the usual dreadful concatenation of tragic, bloody and violent awfulness, at least as far as the international news agencies were concerned.

The agencies, serious and professional though they are, sometimes seem to have a profoundly black view of the world. In common with most journalists, they focus

They do try to find something a little lighter each day, but lighter doesn't always mean funny. Sometimes it means, frankly, pretty grim, because journalists have a macabre sense of humour. They love what are called in the trade "Scandinavian" Brights," shocking and unpleasant stories with a twist.

A good example ran on Reuters last week. "A German camper died from injuries received when a camp-site toilet exploded as he tried to light a cigarette, blasting him through a closed window," it. reported, with a straight face.

animals, and all is different. When furry friends figure, the accent seems to be on good news. Every day there is a snippet of good tidings from the animal

This week, we had anti-depressants for dogs to ease the pain of separation from their owners. But that wasn't all. A heatwave has hit Israel, but the animals in the Biblical Zoo won't suffer. The bears and elephants get fruit-flavoured ice treats. "We don't want to see them hot and bored. If they start pacing back and forth, exhibiting bored behaviour, it means they're unhappy and might start acting strangely," said Dr Gabriel Eshkar, a vetermarian and deputy 200 director.

Malaysia is also sweltering. The inhabitants of the 200 will be all right, however, because their drinking water comes from a special well. Meanwhile some 600,000 residents of Kuala Lumpur have suffered severe water rationing for weeks.

Sarajevo Zoo has had a lean time. It

But turn to the wonderful world of was forced to close in 1992 when the war embassies in Bosnia asking for help to Interstate 15. She gave it a bed in her

put it on the front lines. At the moment, the only resident is a rather sad owl, which was donated by a taxi driver after it crashed into his cab. None of the other animals survived the war. The company that runs the zoo has written to all foreign

restock it.

Meanwhile, in Utah, a pig that wandered into heavy traffic and caused an almighty accident ended up in the lap of luxury. It was taken home by Pauline Coy, who found it injured and wandering along

INSIDE

GARDENING



TRAVEL

On the beaten rail track across the US Mellow daze in Laos

Racing: Walter Swinburn looks to the future

Rugby Union: showdown at Vicarage Road Football: Tottenham in crisis

chicken coop. "It took everything I had to hoist him up and get him in my truck," she said, having tucked it up in a heated blanket.

Another pig. Rudy, who has three eyes

and two snouts, also had some good news. Instead of facing the (pork) chop or life in a freak show, he has been saved by Pigs Without Partners, a Los Angeles-based animal rescue group. They changed his name to Ditto, for reasons best known to themselves. "I think Ditto is going to have a wonderful life - much better than in the circus," Rocky More, the organisation's executive director, said.

A brighter future is also in store for birds in California. Electric fences around prisons have saved \$40m a year in guard salaries, but they aren't so great for birds which fly into them. Among their victims have been 145 burrowing owls, 111 loggerhead shrikes, and 10 red-tailed hawks - all endangered species. Now the author-

ities have put up nets at half the state's pris-

Farra do bol, or ox-baiting, a traditional

ons, at a cost of \$3.4m, which should cut

the number of electrocated birds by 90 per

Good news, too, for Brazilian buils, Brazilian Easter sport, has been made a crime except in certain special areas, which is good news for the oxes. So seriously do the police take this law that they fired rubber bullets at a group of people who tried to have a go in the south of the

So why all the good news? And why so little good news about people?

Perhaps the proliferation of sweet stories about animals reflects a sad truth about the world: that most people are horrible to each other, most of the time. But it is more likely that it represents a sad truth about journalists, not about the world: these hard-bitten types, with their cynicism about fellow human beings, are reduced to sniffling bundles of sentimentality by little (or big) furry animals. It warms your heart, doesn't it?

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Screening gems on LA's main street

New York's Broadway is thrilling, but long. Its Los Angeles namesake is shorter and much more intense. Simon Calder walks the street.

"Need breakfast? Try our special", invites the canteen at the Criminal Courts Building (open 7am to 3.30pm, if you're interested). A hearded, ageing panhandler, with an expression so distant that it could have been still gazing at Saigon, circa 1970, misread my interest in the building: "If you're going to court, you can get in this way." he pointed.

He was the first of many beggars on Broadway to make a dollar that day, but this represents a very reasonable price for a street that, however unwittingly, puts on a rollicking show for visitors.

You could cover the ground in 40 minutes. The significant stretch of constricted artery that is California's version of Broadway is barely a couple of miles long - yet it cuts clean through a startling cross-section of Los Angeles.

That's Los Angeles proper, aot to be Broadway is an especially deep vein.

Spanish settlement that has been spruced up as El Pueblo Historic Park for the benefit of the few tourists who get this far from a beach. Across the park, the handsome desolation of Union Station reminds you this is a fickle city whose romance for the train ended years ago when it shacked up with the motor car. Appropriately, you bridge Highway 101 at the start of the walk south.

If every corner of California's biggest city looks familiar, that's probably because it's been used as a backdrop for some movie or other. One non-fictional exception stands a block away on Spring Street, a hulky cuboid of a building: the Federal Courthouse, where OJ Simpson was tried.

A more uplifting sight is the adjacent about-to-ascend sight of spaceship City Hall. a classic 1928 skyscraper straight out of Gotham, topped with a pyramid. Having cocked a suitably flamboyant snook at New York, for three decades no other building in LA was allowed to exceed 13 storeys.

So far, so opulent. Someone has even confused with any of its self-indulgent sub-thought to add a piece of street sculpture urbs. The whole LA megalopolis looks like to divert the pedestrian. But as you descend, an over-ripe Californian peach that has the middle distance looks a little less rosy. been splatted on a freeway. Downtown is The first real sight on Broadway proper, the knarled old stone at the core - and like the last, is home to a newspaper. As a piece of architecture, the Los Angeles You pick up the trail in the vicinity of Times building is as undistinguished as, say. the original Pueblo de Los Angeles, the Canary Wharf. But the car park is enlivened with a relief showing the history of LA since 1492 (leaving out the troublesome riots 500 years later). A series of quotations adds journalistic gravitas to the proceedings. "Los Angeles is destined to become the most important city in this country, if not the world." said Henry E Huntington in 1920.

New York, Tokyo and London might have something to say about that. If each of these cities had to compete on the basis of a single building, rather than in millions of people, they would be hard-pressed to beat the Bradbury Building, shortly to appear on your left. Despite being rooted firmly in the 19th century, the Bradbury has the distinction of making it into the 21st century as a location for the film Blade Runner.

Victorian brickwork facing out on Broadway conceals a conspiratorially indulgent structure, with terracotta and wrought-iron combining to frame a collusion of spaces. The conspiracy, if the account of the architect George Wyman is to

he believed, was between him and his dead brother, who inspired the design from beyond the grave with the help of a Ouija

And so to McDonald's - not a place you would automatically equate with an inspirational elevenses. But on the east side between Third and Fourth stands a Mayan branch of the burger chain, with extra Mis-

If every corner of LA looks familiar, that's because it's been used as a backdrop for a movie

sion dressing. Alongside the Mesoamerican imagery is a framed notice promising Mi Casa es Su Casa - my house is your house - reflecting that you are moving into thoroughly Hispanic territory. More Mexican meals can be scavenged at the stalls within the adjacent Grand Central public market, the closest you'll get to Lann life this side of the Rio Grande.

A few more blocks of Spanish-speaking stores and panhandlers intervene before the 1930s motifs on the sidewalk outside Clifton's cafeteria (also notable for its extensive list of breakfast options). A aminer building. As a treat for the eyes, this the rest of the city.

series of elaborate mosaics shows scenes in the frame: LA's Broadwa from the activities of Los Angeles, culmi- Photograph: Geraint Lewis nating in a film cameraman.

mightiest of them all is the Los Angeles Sixth and Seventh. Its implausibly elaborate columns look as though they were designed by a neo-classicist on tequila. It opened in 1931, with the premiere of Chaplin's City Lights.

An even more extravagant theatre, the Mayan, stands a block west of Broadway at 11th and Hill Street. Pre-Columbian imagery has been taken to absurdity and beyond, with fierce terracotta warriors outfacing passers-by. The whole concoction looks more manic yet when caught in a flash of sun reflecting from one of the nearby foil-wrapped skyscrapers.

Your mission ends at a real Mission mish-mash. The architect of Hearst Castle, Julia Morgan, translated Hispanic designs to 1111 Broadway and amplified it

"Broadway" means theatre in both long low, palace of print looks superb: as New York and Los Angeles. But while both a place to run a newspaper it looks serihave a dozen or so straggling along their ously challenged, which is perhaps why the respective versions of the road, the LA Herald Examiner has not done as well as collection is devoted to screen, not stage. the LA Times. South from here, the inner These are also much more ornate, with city really takes a grip: Quentin Crisp depainstaking decoration everywhere. The scribed Los Angeles as "New York lying down", but here it resembles Mogadishu Theatre, on the western shore between taking a nap. Best cross the road and head back north. There's a lot more Broadway. backdrops and beggars, on the other side.

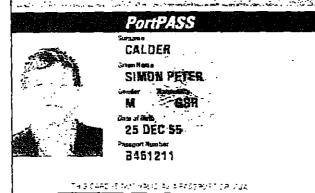
> Simon Calder travelled to Los Angeles from Heathrow, and returned from LA to Luton. using a selection of somewhat dodgy tickets that entailed making stops in Chicago, Kansas City, Phoenix and Amsterdam. The total cost was around £430.

> You can reach the city more easily and cheaply non-stop from Heathrow on Air New Zealand, American Airlines, British Airways, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic (which also operates on behalf of Continental Airlines). Booking through a discount travel agency, you could pay as little as £350 return.

'LA Access', by Richard Saul Wurman (distributed in the UK by HarperCollins, with Art Deco to create the Herald Ex- £12.99) is an excellent guide to Broadway and

Within 30 minutes of arriving at Newark airport. I was being fingerprinted by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service - not because I'm a particularly undesirable alien. but because I was renewing my Inspass. Anyone who has queued for hours in the queue for Immigration at New York should try to get hold of one of these wondrous devices, which gets you into America with just a wave of the hand.

I have written previously about this precious piece of plastic, but the steady stream of enquiries about it since then makes it worth restating the advice. Inspass is the acronym for Immigration and Naturalization Service Passenger Accelcrated Service System. Using a less time than it takes to recite the name of the system.



port terminal. Here, an immi- ready.

The card is intended for gration official performs a per-"low-risk, frequent" travellers to - functory interview about how ofthe US. You can apply for it - ten you visit the US; he or she and use it - only in five in- can probably tell whether you ternational airports: New York are being extravagant with the JFK and Newark, Los Angeles. truth just by looking at your special eard, you can speed. Miami and Toronto, If you feel passport. If there are no previthrough US Immigration in you quality, follow the signs to our US Immigration stamps. the enrolment centre in the air- you'd better have a good story

You then complete an application rather like the Visa Waiver form (which asks about previous involvement in drugs and Nazi war crimes). have your fingerprints taken and place your right hand in a special machine that measures its geometry - a highly individual characteristic. Then you have a supremely untlattering picture taken (you've just spent eight hours on a plane with inferior in-flight entertainment, for goodness' sake).

The card is free, and looking silly is a small price to pay for avoiding immigration queues in the coming year.

"We took your advice and booked the £199 trip to South Korea", write Peter Davies and Alison Parker on a jolly postcard from Seoul. They are referring to the silliest offer the year so far: I wrote on 7 March that

seats to the Korean capital for er, but not before the pair had East-for-less-than-tuppence-a-

strong we have found everything to be roughly half the price of the UK, although the tradespeople here seem to think we're loaded; haggling has become a very quickly learned skill. Saying 'We are not Japanese' and having a 12-inch height advantage increases our bargaining position substantially.

"Nevertheless, it's a fascinating place and somewhere we would not have visited without the giveaway fare. We eagerly await the next obscure bargain." So do I.

Neither obscure, nor a bargain. That's Peter May's e-mailed response to an item in last week's Theck In column.

"I don't think Boots £135 for family insurance for one month is a good deal. Other companies are offering 12 month multipletrip family insurance for the same price or less. The Independeals; this doesn't seem like one."

Favourable or otherwise, Mr May's comments - like those of : travel agencies are failing to comply. every reader - are appreciated.

British Airways was unloading GREEN CHANNEL

£199, because of the Asian eco. America may have invented the national park, routes. In the short term, the Park Authority is nomic slump. BA has now but here in Britain we caught on eventually. If abandoned the route altogeth- you were one of the tens of thousands of people who visited one of the national parks in England taken advantage of the Far and Wales during the Easter break, the chances are you got there by car. Fewer than one in five of the 76m people who visit national parks every "With the exchange rate so : year, get there by any other means of transport.

The consequence? Severe traffic congestion. and pollution in some of the most environmentally sensitive and tranquil areas of Britain, and a growing need for our green and pleasant land to be Tarmacadamed-over in order to create car parks to deal with the influx. Not surprisingly, the Council for National Parks is eager to encourage people to travel by public transport.

The Peak District National Park, which receives 22m day visits per year - more than any national park in the world except Mount Fuji in Japan is particularly at pains to improve things. Its integrated transport strategy, launched by Glenda Jackson this month, proposes long-term plans such as the reintroduction of the Buxton-Matlock railway and traffic restraints on cross-Pennine

trying hard to entice us on to public transport for future visits. Exchange your parking receipt at an information centre, and you get a travel pack with £5 worth of discount tickets for public transport plus travel and walking information.

The authority has also got together with the British Mountaineering Council to introduce a special bus that will allow climbers to leave their cars at home. Climbers (and other members of the public) can get on the bus after work on Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday evenings in Sheffield and climb or walk at the popular areas of Burbage Bridge and Stanage Edge until the sun goes down, when the bus returns. The bus will also run during the day on Sunday.

For information on public transport facilities to national parks throughout the country, contact the Council for National Parks on 0171-924 4077. For details on travelling to and in the Peak District: Peak District National Park 01629

Sue Wheat



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RED CHANNEL

A compendium of hazards facing today's traveller. This week hidden taxes

Since the start of the year, advertisements for flights have been obliged to include prepayable taxes. On 1 January, the Advertising Standards Authority brought in a new rule to this effect, but its enforcement has been dent usually points out the good patchy. A series of calls to advertisers in a range of publications - notably free magazines in the London area - reveals that many small

The response of three agencies when

pressed about why they don't include taxes in advertising suggest that they are aware of the new rule:

"Some people include tax and some people don't. It's not the law." This is a mistake - next week it will be

amended."

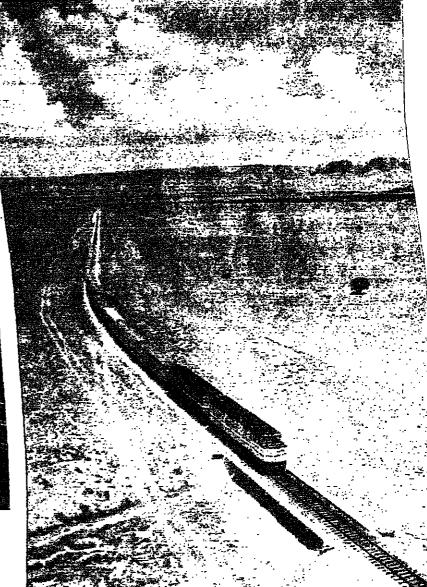
As far as I'm concerned these facts are inclusive of taxes. It's up to historial consul-

tants to charge whatever they like (this was the manager of an agency advertising. New York £129 return - a figure which did not include £53 m (ax):









Rock and rail

Orient Express it isn't, cheap it ain't. But hell, you sure do see America from the railroad.

By Tamsin Murray-Leach

If you were offered a choice between crossing the United States by plane (a journey that takes six hours) or spending three days cooped up in a railway carriage, which would you choose? The sane traveller, the expedient traveller, the money-conscious traveller would opt for the flight, but the shortsighted romantic would pack camera and notepad and head for the railway station lickity-split, barely pausing to wonder why they were paying over twice as much for their one-way train ticket as they would to fly.

headed west out of New York, in the com- fortable chair. pany of assorted armebair adventurers and limate C ply turn the knob to the temperature you desire, and technology will do the rest." Personally I'd rather windows that open than technology, but three days later and with sinuses barely intact, Amtrak still seemed a far more civilised option than flying.

Unlike the sterilised environment of an aeroplane, travelling by train offers so train rattled across the wide plains of Kansas at sunrise, faint light of dawn licking the panoramic window; reading quietly at night to the lulling hum of metal wheels, while our speed swept clouds of ' in the sleeping cars the toilets are always snow across the black shadows of winter clean and there's never a queue; one can trees; crossing the Colorado Rockies take a shower, weak by American standards over towering mountain passes and but on a par with British plumbing; and, through the red gorges of the Colorado perhaps most importantly, you can shut the River - soaring baid eagles and straggling door on all other passengers, thus avoidelk the only signs of life.

railroad, yet so few US citizens take the train is considering eliminating Amtrak's already reduced operating subsidies. Once Western railroad companies posted advertisements back East offering packages of prairie land to prospective passengers: today there are no freebies, just a rather hefty demand on your cheque book...

New York to San Francisco or LA is three days straight on a train, with a short stopover in Chicago's business district you'll have time to glimpse a few skyscrapers the cheerful friendliness of all its onand that's it. If economy is your priority, catch a plane or brave the bus. Those taking the train should invest in a sleeper. The first morning on board, after waking from a sound sleep to snowflakes falling on the quiet, bleak farmlands of Ohio, I breakfasted in the dining car beside a large man with a heavy Brooklyn accent. He was a tough guy who looked as if he had survived So it was that I found myself on a train far more in life than a night in an uncom-

"I've always wan'ed to take the friggin' Fearful Flyers, unprepared for three days train to LA," he groaned, his bleary eyes a sleeper for tonight, I really don't think I'm gonna make it - yo, I'm serious."

Sleepers do not come cheap, and upon peeping into your allotted cupboard for the first time you may wonder where the dollars have gone. Family groups, taller couples or those with a low space-invasion threshold would be wise to take a family many unique moments, each making the or deluxe cabin, which include a minilong journey worthwhile: waking up as the bothroom, couch and just about enough room to swing a cat.

Yet it's the things that wouldn't seem like indulgences at home which one comes to appreciate after a few hours on a train.

Much of North America was built on the other people's conversations. Dave, my sleeping car attendant, took immaculate these days that the Clinton administration care of his charges, regardless of whether we boarded in the middle of the night, came complete with oversized, overweight baggage, had a hundred questions about the route or merely wished to be left in peace. Orange juice and a newspaper were supplied on waking, coffee was available all day and chocolates miraculously appeared in the sleeper after dinner.

Amtrak has concentrated in recent years on improving its service standards, and

more evident than in the dining car. An illusion of first-class dining is created by allowing sleeper passengers to reserve a time slot for dinner, while the commoners down in coach must queue up for a space. but the food - served on plastic plates due to financial cutbacks - is just as mediocre for everyone. Entrées such as steak and eatfish look promisingly elegant on the menu, but fail to live up to expectations, rating slightly below standard airplane fare. Amtrak claims that its chefs were trained at the Culinary Institute of Amer-

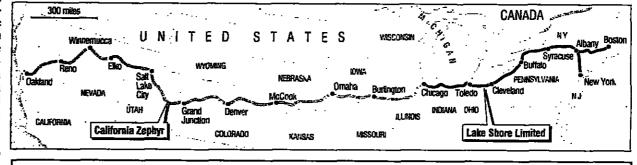
as Amtrak operates the traditional railcar policy of filling all four seats at a table. Thus a couple or lone traveller will always be seated with strangers, an occasionally alarming but never uninteresting experience. My many dining companions included a pair of actors and their child, moving to Los Angeles for a three-month work contract; an itinerant worker from the Midwest, recently divorced and heading West for the promise of a warehouse job and a space on his buddy's couch; and three high school graduates with bad punk haircuts from nalitown Pennsylvania, determined on en-

The US on track: New York to San Francisco or LA is three days straight in a train Photographs: Corbis

Indeed, Americans might all at first look alike in the disguise of comfortable clothes, but a wide sample of the United States can be found on the train. A political lobbyist from Washington confided that he took the train annually not only to get in three days. of undisturbed work, but to "meet America", declaring that Washington and New York provided little insight into the true constituent body. Dinner does not afford the only occasion for discussion, as three days of confinement tends to prompt most travellers into enthusiastic conversation at the slightest provocation. Stories are swapped on the platform at each stop, and it's easy to strike up discourse in the lounge car, with its huge floor-to-ceiling windows, magazine racks, swivelling easy chairs and bar.

Dave the sleeping car attendant sighed, however, that it wasn't quite like the old days, when the lounge was the scene of rowdy drinking parties, thick smoke and occasional nudity. Nowadays things are a little more subdued, with a Happy Hour and "get together before dinner, followed by a nightly movie screening. Community spirit is encouraged by the Chief of On-Board Services and the attendants; at one point we were invited over the intercom to stick our heads out of our cabins and greet our neighbours.

Yet despite the intriguing company, it must be admitted that the opportunity for carefree solitude was the trip's real selling point. Despite the lack of air (take nasal spray), my little standard sleeper was not the cramped closet it first appeared to be - as it turned out, it was little short of a surrogate womb. With food, accommodation and the whole point of the day - trayel - taken care of hy others. I was free to retreat to my cabin, close the door and sit quietly as America rushed on by.



Getting there

Bookings to parts of the US, notably Florida, are extremely heavy. but to other destinations on the East Coast you should be able to find seats at £250 return, or £350 to the West Coast.

Getting across

If you can travel by 21 May, Thomas Cook Flights Direct (0990) 101520) has a special deal giving reduced-rate Amtrak tickets

board staff reflects the success of this policy. Having worked the trains for almost 20 years, Dave's knowledge of the railroads and of local history was inexhaustible, as he happily pointed out nuclear waste dumps on the Plains, wildlife in the Rock-

ies and whorehouses in Nevada. Just bear in mind that despite the frills, Amtrak is still a working train service rather than an Orient Express-style recreation of

for two or three passengers travelling together. Companies such as Explorers Tours (01753 681999) offer a range of organised rail tours of the US. The Greyhound Bus Company is still rolling across Amer-

ica. Four days of unlimited travel (enough to take you from coast to coast) costs £75, while a 30-day pass is £230. These must be bought in advance from Greyhound International (01342 317317).

However, there's still something exciting about sitting down to dine in a moving railway carriage, a feeling that far surpasses buying wilted burgers-to-go from the hatch on British trains. After dark it feels cosy and intimate, while there's nothing quite like an early breakfast of hearty American pancakes and maple syrup as the sun streams through the wall-to-wall windows.

Mealtimes also provide the best oping crying babies, hissing Walkmans and bygone extravagance. Nowhere is this portunity to mingle with other passengers.

lightening adventure. Dinner conversation is always illuminating for the casual observer of American culture: I remained quiet as a rather conservative graduate law student and a middle-aged travelling mall-to-mall "Glamour Shots" photographer had an earnest conversation about the ills of San Francisco, basing their dislike of the city on the hypothetical problem of having to explain to a small child why two grown men would walk down the street holding hands.

The promised land, for a fistful of dollars

Tony Marshall visits New Canaan, New England, where new and old money retreats to a clapboard paradise

Connecticut, said to be the richest town in America, it is novel Subbath's Theater. easy to believe he was right. This is a squeaky-clean sort of a place, full of white-painted clapboard buildings straight

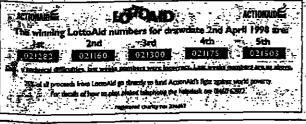
ican equivalent. There is a house up the road. church on almost every street - the First Presbyterian, the Congregational, Episcopolian, the United Methodists. And then there is Silver Hill, the poshest centre for the treatment of drunks and addicts in America, where stars of stage

It was Ernest Hemingway who and screen come to dry out and had gone round twice a day tion. It is the heart of America's

Hemingway is unlikely to have taken the cure, but heknew New Canaan through his lifelong editor and agent, out of a Dulux ad, or its Amer- Maxwell Perkins, who had a

New Canaan certainly has a rich and respectable front. Canaan was the Old Testament 'name for the Israelites' Promised Land and it has, for many of its residents, achieved that heavenly status. The town centre is spotless, as if someone

There is the tiny New





said the rich were the same as get straight - a process that with a giant vacuum cleaner. It you or me, they just had more Portnoy's Complaint author is tiny - only a block square money And in New Canaan, Philip Roth underwent and set on the edge of Oenoke being that it is densely forested described in his last-but-one Ridge, which was once the hunting ground of the Iroquois tribe of native Americans.

Roads lead off from the corners of the block to Norwalk, Wilton and Stamford, and enclose what is now the haunt of Wall Street brokers, lawyers, bankers and film stars such as Meryl Streep, Christopher Reeve and Robert Redford. And Andre Previn has a place, Caramor - a vast estate with a Mexican-style hacienda which houses a concert hall.

Canaan bank building, a furniture store, two petrol stations, a small cinema, the Starbucks coffee house, fire station, cake shop, sports outfitters, two clothing stores, the CVS drugstore, the Bread Basket, Uncle's Deli, flower shop, real estate broker's, a Chinese takeaway, the Tequila Mockingbird Mexican bar and restaurant. a bike shop, and a bar called Cherry Street East - on Cherry Street.

It is nothing to write home about, perhaps, yet it is home to more millionaires than anywhere else in New England which means anywhere in the hour from Grand Central Sta- chateaux.

broker belt, the difference with oaks, plane trees and pines, so that the vast houses roads - and there is (perhaps surprisingly, for car-crazed America) a 25mph speed limit.

It is also incredibly pretty. And if there were a competition for the quietest town in North America, New Canaan would be in the running. You can see why it is such a haven for the big players from Hollywood or Madison Avenue or Wall Street. And there is plenty of old money, with residents such as members of the Kennedy clan hiding out in their redbrick mansions. Which is why you won't find houses advertised for less than £1m.

Yet many of the people here don't consider themselves rich - because the Joneses next door have a £10m residence.

The style of many of these dwellings is unpretentious one- or two-storey wooden buildings like the old New England farmhouses they may once have been (one or two still have red barns attached). Some of the newer ones are mock Louisiana plantation houses, copies of Dutch-style world. It is less than 20 miles houses in Cape Cod, or even from Manhattan, and about an what look bizarrely like French

You can have one built to equivalent of the Surrey stock- your specifications from an architect's catalogue - an offthe-peg antebellum mansion with modern plumbing - for the same price as an old clapboard are mostly hidden from the farmhouse. But don't expect change from £2m.

> The early-morning trains are crammed with commuters. who start work at 7,30am, in well-cut suits and clean shirts reading the New York Times. The last direct train back is at 7.03pm and it is a different story. Plastic tumblers of ice line the carriage doorways and empty cans of Coors beer roll around on the floor. One dishevelled suit, probably back from a posting to a bank in London, was yelling over and over again with a good, phoney English accent, "You're obviously one of us." Everyone fell about laughing at the irony.

New Canaan is the end of the line, the terminus where to the ancient Inca city of everyone who is very rich, very lucky or very screwed up must wake and queue at the Taxi Stand of Life. The pocket timetable gives details of return trains from New York and Stamford to Glenbrook. Springdale, Talmadge Hill and New Canaan. There is an ad at the top of the page: "Alcohol and Drug Helpline," it says.

"Information & Treatment

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Well, alleluia!

The Eastern and Oriental

Express (0171-805 5100) has launched a Summer Promotion on the train between Bangkok and Singapore. For departures between this week and 17 September, passengers on the luxury train get a night's accommodation at both the Oriental in Bangkok and the Mandarin Oriental in Singapore. The fare is £800 per person; unfortunately, this excludes the cost of flights

A boat A new high-speed vessel starts sailing between Liverpool and the Isle of Man on 22 May. The SeaCat, operated by the IOM Steam Packet Company (0990 523523) will take two and a half hours to reach the port of Douglas, A return tick-

et to the island will cost £32.

A plane begins flights from New York direct to Cuzco in Peru, close

Machu Picchu. For the first time, travellers from Britain can reach Cuzplane - leave Heathrow at 4pm and, even with a refuelling stop in Lima, you'll be high in the Peruvian Altiplano in good time for breakfast the following day. Journey Latin America (0181-747. 3108) quotes a fare of £832 re-

turn, including taxes.

Hotel rates in Britain have risen faster than anywhere else in Europe in the past two years, according to the European Business Travel Index published yesterday by American Express, Increases average 9 per cent - while in Berlin, prices have jallen by 7 per cent.

A room



The Independent reported this week on the spread of "Red Tide" in Hong Kong, involving algae carrying a toxin that gives water a crimson tinge. In response, the travel health specialist MASTA is advising A month from now ... visitors to the former colony This week American Airlines to avoid eating fish and

"The symptoms can occur within minutes of finishing a meal," says travel health adviser Sue Taylor. "The toxin causes sickness, diarrhoea co with a single change of and, in extreme cases, paralysis and death."

For further advice, call MASTA on 0891 224100.

A drink

"There is a great deal of drinking in Romania, as you will soon notice, and most crime is alcohol-related. Non- Thomson (0990 502046),

drinkers will meet with the same incomprehension as vegetarians. Bars are generally men-only places and range from dark rough-andready dives to places with a rather chintzy ice cream-parlour atmosphere." - from Romania: the Rough Guide (£10.99), just updated by Tim Burford and Dan Richardson.

A week from now ...

... you can learn about Italy in the Age of Turner in a study day at Alleyn's School, Townley Road, London SE22. The event ties in with the exhibition of the same name at the nearby Dulwich Picture Gallery. It includes a lecture on the origins of the Grand Tour by Professor Edward Chancy. For tickets to Saturday's event, price £25, call 0181-693 6911.

... you should be heading north for the Highland Festival 98 - a celebration of arts and culture throughout the Highlands and Islands, which lasts from 22 May to 6 June and stretches from Thurso to Portree and Uliapool to Inverness. Call 01479 810363 for details of events.

A year from now ...

... a fortnight in Puerto Vallarta will cost £1,169 at the Paradiso all-inclusive resort in Mexico, travelling from Gatwick or Manchester with

48 hours on the Costa Brava

Avoid the concrete horrors on Spain's 'rugged coast', writes Adrian Morrison, and get a better picture from the surreal delights of Dali-land

Why go now?

Because the lush verdure and the spring flowers just inland from the coast make this the prettiest season to enjoy Spain's "rugged coast". Because at this time of year you won't find the place completely swamped with hot, sticky visitors. And because, as a consequence, you'll have a chance of seeing the real Catalonia rather than a setting for the annual sun-seeking brigade.

Beam down

British Airways (0345-222111), EasyJet (0990 292929) and Iberia (0171-830 0011) fly from various UK airports to Barcelona, with fares starting at around £120. The problem is that Barcelona is on the "wrong" side of town for the Costa Brava. Girona is a much better gateway, but there are relatively few flights there from Britain - all of them charters.

Get your bearings

There are plenty of concrete horrors along the Costa Brava, but that's no reason to avoid this part of the Med. In particular, the stretch between Girona and Figueres is bordered by handsome hills and sprinkled with villages of great charm. But, as with all of Spain, remember that you're entering a different time zone here: lunches are long, afternoons easy (when everything, but everything, stops) and night life cheerfully carries on until dawn.

The Hotel Aigua Blava in the village of Begur (00 34 72 622058) offers fantastic floor of the central building is recommended, or you may have a better view and set in wonderful gardens. What's of the tennis courts) and marvellous more, rates are a very moderate 9.000 plas food for the more liquid traveller: 14. - which in these days of strong sterling is

at San Andreu del Terri (00 34 72 594412). cooking.

Santiago Santiago de Compostella

views of the fishermen's beach (the third This is the sort of place to fantasise about - a lovely Spanish farm filled with antiques for a double room with bath (8.000ptas with-900 pray full board, per person, before tax out) with breakfast included and dinner on soothed by the quality of light. request. The English couple who run it. Michael and Jennifer Collins, dine with About 10km inland, near the medieval guests in a relaxed atmosphere and serve town of Girona, lies the Can Portell Inn a wide range of Mediterranean country

... or more of an amble, Spanish style. This is Dali-land, and however you rate the eccentric Catalonian master of surrealism, his former haunts are well worth a visit. Make for the crisply white-washed fishing village of Cadaques that, because of its artistic associations, became a rather more glamorous version of Cornwall's St Ives in the 1920s. It's a bit of a hike from Barcelona (about one and a half hours), and the last leg of the journey is spectacularly twisty, but the trip is worth the effort. As you wander round town (popping into the local museum that displays Dali's amazing egotism in an extensive collection of extraordinary photographs) and along the beach coves, you can't fail to be impressed by the setting and

Lunch on the run

Join the Spanish locals with a nose for a good meal at Casa Anita at 12 Miguel Roset Rousing dinner

of wine and eat local fish fare; the menu is the Aiguamolls restaurant (972 552063). is on the simple side - gamba and calamar are pretty much stock items - and prices are reasonable (about £10 for a twocourse meal with local wine).

Cultural afternoon

There's a treat in store: for more of Dali genuinely funny, dramatic and even veering on the edges of compelling artistry - head for the market town of Figueres about half an hour from Cadaques, where the Surrealist established his own museum, complete with some of his bizarre, albeit less known, work. Here you can see a Cadillac, Taxi Plujós, reputed to have belonged to Al Capone. When a coin is deposited it starts to rain in the car's interior. Or try the Sala de Mae West, a room whose contents - sofa, fireplace and paintings - compose the face of the actress when viewed at the right angle.

It sports an increasingly popular dish that seems incompatible with the surrounding bird sanctuary. For a moderate price the adventurous diner can try local ostrich steak

in a mixed setting of locals and tourists. Alternatively you can try the ostrich carpaccio at the Calamar en Folie (00-34 72 530083), a French restaurant on the Calle Isabel in the tiny village of Pau. Close to the town of Roses, the village nestles between the Pyrenees and the Bay of Roses in olive fields and surrounding vineyards. The restaurant itself is in a 300-year-old former olive mill, making the culinary experience resonant with old Catalonia.

Sunday morning - go to church

The cathedral in Girona is the city's architectural masterpiece. The entrance to the impressive Gothic structure is apin Cadaques. Here you sit among barrels Situated in the Parc Natural del Aiguamolis wonderful example of Catalan "Hall won't aid the experience.

A surreal life the Salvador Dali museum in Figueres, with a Cadilla reputed to have belonged to Al Capone - deposit a coin and it starts to rain in the car's interior Photograph: Neil Dyson

Churches" with a 23-metre nave spanning the Gothic vault - the largest in the world. In the end room the 11th-2th century Creation Tapestry has been described as the finest example of Romanesque textiles in existence.

Tickets to see the religious artizan be bought from the Museu Capitular inside the cathedral for 300ptas, which is well worth the investment.

Sunday lunch

C'an Baille (00 34 72 530598), in the lovely little village of Garriguella, about 20 minutes from Figueres, is a typical Camian family restaurant. The home cooking here is excellent but don't expect fancy frills (the large menu lists dishes such as stewed lentils and grilled steak and fish). At about 1000ptas (£4) for three courses, prices are fairly modest, one reason why it gets so busy here - and it will certainly be bustling on a Sunday lunchtime.

A walk in the park

Back to the Parc Natural del Aiguamolls de l'Emporda, but this time to stretch your legs around the lagoons and marshes of one of Spain's newest and most easily negotiated nature reserves. From the El Cortalet information centre (00 34 72 250322 or 454222) clearly marked paths lead to a twomile stretch of beach. There awaits a special treat for the ornithologically inclined: more than a hundred species of birds have been spotted in one day during the migration periods in late spring and autumn.

The Monastir de Sant Pere Galligants is another impressive Romanesque feature in Girona's old city. The cloister of the former monastery has some exceptional carvings on its pillars. The church, now used as the city's archaeological museum, houses Roman statues, mosaics and sarcophagi. For 200ptas you can see these, plus tombs with Jewish inscriptions, but unless you can proached by a magnificent flight of 17th- read Spanish or Catalan the accompanycentury Baroque steps. The building is a ing information and explanatory maps

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Section 15 Land and comments of





The rain of St James

... certainly falls on the sacred city of Santiago de Compostela. Yet this adds to the unexpectedly electric atmosphere, writes Elizabeth Nash

"You have to see Santiago with its stones You'll see pilgrims with their trademark geous inner courtyards with their drenched," they tell you, which is just as well staff and cockleshell at any time, but delicately carved granite fountains. off for long. But don't be put off. Despite grey skies and darkened granite walls sproutfor Europe's top Christian pilgrimage site.

Forget dour priests, pious penitents and tacky religious souvenirs. Santiago, sup- hands emerge either side of the dazzling posedly the resting place of Saint James the figure to clasp it round the neck. Apostle, crackles with an air of lively celebration. Partly this is to do with the burner, the bottafumetro, as tall and round ble of Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque, dominated by the cathedral, which Jan Morris calls "unquestionably one of the great buildings of the world". Partly too, as a university city, 30,000 students create an irreverent buzz and an electric nightlife.

held in check the proliferation of devotional for fun as for faith.

because it is rare in this windswept north- especially on 25 July, St James's Day. Every western corner of Spain for showers to hold "seventh year, when the day falls on a Suning green moss, this is one of the jauntiest the silver, jewel-studded statue of the engaging sight, from a seat in the transept far below, to see a succession of tiny white

For special services the giant incense

exuberant architecture, a sublime ensem- as a priest, is hung from a complex pulley system and swung by eight men with ropes. Designed originally to obliterate the stench of a mass of travel-worn pilthe eyes of the faithful who fear it will fall on their head. "The risk heightens emo-The city fathers have restored and tions," remarks a local guidebook, with pedestrianised the entire medieval centre an astute nod to ecclesiastical psycholoand, despite centuries of mass tourism, have gy. Outside, on the magnificent Obradoiro square, which is constantly alive and at the kitsch. In the 11th and 12th centuries the same time soothingly tranquil, is the city received hundreds of thousands of pil- Hostal de los Reyes Catolicos, built in grims a year, and to help them a French 1499 as a hospice for sick or weary pilmonk wrote the world's first tourist guide grims and said to be the oldest hotel in in 1140. Chaucer's Wife of Bath had "been Europe. Take a drink in the bar, or a tapa in Galicia at Seynt Jame". and many today or two in the cellar tavern if five-star lux-

The plops and gurgles of dispersing rainwater form a constant accompaniment even day, is declared a Jacobeo. The next one is when the sun is shining, reminding you 1999, when millions will flock to embrace never to move without your umbrella. The white-clad motionless performance artist cities in the country - quite an achievement apostle high up behind the altar. It is an in the square carries a white umbrella to protect his sodden robes. Souvenir shops in the medieval lanes contain mercifully few light-up virgins and waxen body parts, but countless miniature botafumeiros and a good selection of silverwork set with jet, including umbrella-shaped earrings.

Between each shop there is a bar or restaurant, with some of the most startling window displays of sea creatures I have ever seen. Crabs and lobsters two feet wide strain grims, it swings in huge arcs followed by in their tanks against fat rubber bands that bind their terrible claws. Fish with jaws agape, teeth bared, languish on a white dish, and an octopus turned upside down, its tentacles tucked beneath its head, exposes its rows of beady suckers in all directions.

Overcome your fears, these establishments are relaxed and user-friendly. Drink the fragrant white Albarino or Ribeiro wines, among the finest in Spain. Locals in little porcelain dishes called curcos, but you should stick to the good stuff poured if you possibly can - and peek at the gor- dishes as souvenirs. Other delights include



Saints and street cred: despite grey skies and darkened granite, Santiago de Compostela is one of the jauntiest cities on the country - quite an achievement for Europe's top pilgrimage site Photograph: A Woolfitt

Santiago tarts, made with almond flour, and dent musician, clad in black velvet, plays The only airline flying direct to Santiago dedrink rough wine from a plump white jug creamy breast-shaped cheeses known as for tourists to fund his studies. Down his

adds to the atmosphere. Or a nuna, a stu-splattered on the damp earth.

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back pastel satin ribbons trail, adorned with A lone bagpiper, whose mournful tones rosettes as fat and pink as the camellias that similarly take the Road to Santiago as much ury is beyond reach - though stay there from bottle to glass, and buy the jug and wrap themselves round the granite arcades, nod from trees in ancient courtyards or lie

Compostela from Britain is Iberia (0171-830 0011), which flies from Heathrow. The lowest fare is £183 return. Spanish Tourist Office: 22 Manchester Square, London W1M 5.4P (0171-486 8077).

Rugged and roasted

If you thought a good Sunday roast was the prerogative of the British, then a visit to the small Spanish town of Sepulveda is an eye-opening and mouth-watering experience. An hour and a half's drive north of Madrid, in the rugged and beautiful; Castillian countryside, Sepulveda is a favourité destination for hungry madrilenos and a shrine to the culinary art of el cordero asado - roast lamb.

ke Worlds

Resorts

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At midday on Sunday. there's still a sleepy air to the place, with most of the noise in the narrow cobbled streets coming from low-flying swallows and martins. But the doors and shutters of the medieval buildings are beginning to open to reveal restaurant after restaurant.

All feature el horno de leña - the wood-fired oven in which Castillian roasts

traditionally cooked. In a well-rehearsed ritual, my madrileño friends Jaime and Isabel book a table at El Ismael, and we get a tantalising preview of hunch as the chef fills the oven with individual earthenware casseroles containing the legs of



work up a serious appetite. ... Sepulveda is the gateway to

the Hoces del Duraton natural park, where the river Duraton carves out a deep winding gorge, home to a colony of griffon vultures. They wheel and plane below us, no doubt working up their own appetites, as lamb, daubed with olive oil we follow a well-trodden path

and herbs and surrounded by to the tiny church and ruined potatoes, before we set out to monastery of San Frutos. In spring, the countryside is very green, the wild flowers blooming everywhere and there are flocks of goats and sheep, which remind us of lunch.

In our absence, Sepulveda has filled up with smart cars bearing Madrid licence plates. and the Ismael has become as convivially boisterous as only a

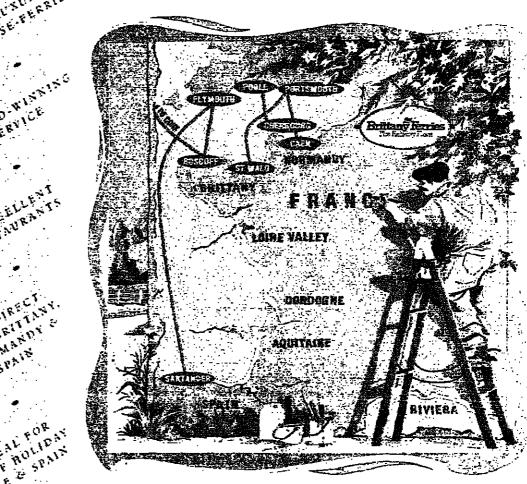
Spanish restaurant can be There is a menu with a choice of items, but everyone seems to be eating the suckling lamb.

Ours arrives, crisp on the outside, tender and pink within, and plenty of it. Perfecto, pronounces Jaime. We have to agree, A robust Rioia red, a wheel of crusty bread and the freshest of salads adds to the wealth of textures, colours and tastes, and there is just enough room for a cooling velvety flan,

and warming velvety brandy. Before the journey back we wander, rather slowly, round Sepulveda. It boasts one of Spain's oldest town charters, and with its steep alleyways, Romanesque churches, the remnants of the old walls and views over the Duraton, would look great at any time. In the afterglow of lunch it is wonderful.

If you are not blessed with Madrileño friends or a smart cur bearing Madrid licence plates, you can reach Sepulveda by bus from Segovia, itself relatively easy to reach by train from Madrid.

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In Laos, loitering is an art form and strolling a delight. Get there before it changes, suggests

William Mackesy

"The problem with the people of Laos," mouned the businessman over dinner. "is that they are too easily contented. They are terrible salesmen - one deal, and they pack up for the rest of the day." This contentment is, however, one of the elements that make the small country one of the mellowest

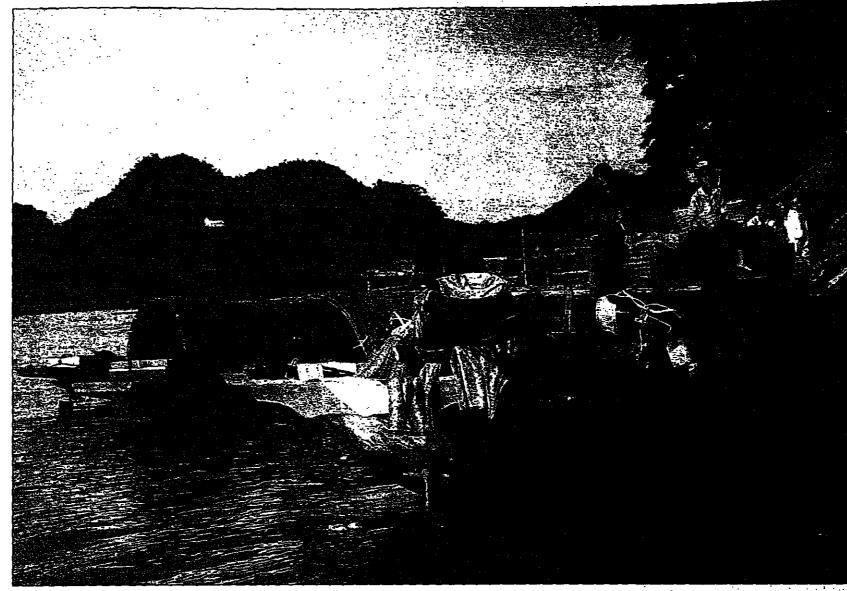
places in Asia. Yet for most of its history Laos was far from mellow. It was for years a vassal state of succeeding dominant neighbours. It came under French colonial control in the late 19th century, And in 1975, communists took over - and the country remained in virtual isolation for the next 14 years.

Grim though communist rule may have been, there have been benefits in that Laos was preserved in a time warp. And one legaey of this is the delightfully unspoilt town of Luang Prabang in the north. This is an ancient capital of Laos and it is stunning-Is situated on a small plain at the junction of the Mckong and Nam Khan rivers. Becond the glittering waters rise green hills, with blue silhouettes of mountains looming beyond.

The town is also an important religious centre, with more than 30 Buddhist temples, many of them built in the idiosyncratic Lao style - deep, sweeping eyes and a shady porch. The interiors of the older temples are dark red, with gold stencilled patterns, creating a harmonious, dignified setting for the slender golden Buddha figures, many of which stand in the graceful "calling for rain" posture, attenuated arms and long fingers pointing to the earth.

At dusk, we wandered past temples. their glowing interiors buzzing with ritual. Through the doors, we could see shaven-headed boy-monks whispering and pinching each other behind the intent. motionless figures of their elders.

Quite apart from Buddhist temples, the town is also rich in French colonial architecture; cool, airy, colonnaded buildings, some now revemped as hotels and restaurants. On the main streets are old town are pleasant wooden homes. Flow-visit the famous Pak Ou Caves. The Buddha figures of all shapes and sizes.



Soothing waters: a boat trip on the Mekong unravels a succession of riverside tableaux

too simple to have a small garden or at least plants sprouting from old tin cans.

Apart from a few of the hotels, little appears to have been built here since the 1960s. Loitering is an art form, and strolling the streets a delight. Luang Prabang is not a large place (about 70,000 people live in the entire district), and it is easy to get around on foot. There are few cars, and scooters purt slowly around among the cyclists.

One morning, we hired a boat to take

ers are everywhere, and no home seems journey in itself is well worth the effort; a succession of riverside tableaux unfold - hoat builders, people planting crops in the fresh silt left by the rainy season, children splashing in the shallows while their mothers scrub their laundry.

We sat on the boat's roof, basking in the sun and dangling our legs in the water as the scenery slipped by. When we eventually reached the caves we were almost overwhelmed by the peaceful, spiritual atmosphere. The caves have been sacred shop-houses, while on the outskirts of us on a three-hour trip up the Mekong to for hundreds of years and are crammed with

bang along a track heading up a valley. We pedalled for some 10 miles through shady woods, yellow-green rice fields and pretty, dusty villages where the women worked complicated looms in the shade beneath their stilted houses. A snake slithered across the road ahead of us. part of its belly distended by a recent meal.

Close to town, weavers had set up a covered market, where women sold their products with a gentle, murmured sales pitch. It was hard to resist. We ended up by buying industrial quantities - supposedly for colours change at the end of the day.

Another day, we cycled from Luang Pra- our godchildren, although we know in our hearts that they would never-reach them.

And then there was the question of eating. Although Laos is a poor country, the food in Luang Prabang is delicious: the best watercress in the world, so it seems; noodlesoups; Lao sausages; ratatouille; duck curries and the ubiquitous sticky rice. The cuisine is herbed, delicate and less chilli-burning than Thai food. We ate in elegant colonial villas; wooden vernacular houses and on terraces a tide of Thai-Americanism. Added to that balanced precariously on stilts over the riverbank, watching the river traffic or the

Lurching to Laos

Laos does not yet go out of its way to encourage courism, but things have improved markedly from a few years ago when visitors had to allow a couple of months to proqure the required visa.

The easiest way to get a visa is to pre-book land arrangements from Britain. Through Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711), for example, two people travelling together would pay £365 each for a fournight package beginning in the Lao capital, Vientiane, and including flights to Luang Prabang and two nights there.

The company contracts the trip through its agent in Laos. Interlao Tourism in Laos, which then arranges for a visa (fee £25) to be collected on arrival. Regent can also sell tickets from London via Bangkok to Vientiane for £530 (including tax) until the end of June on Thai Airways International.

You can alternatively approach by laud through northern Thailand, using the new bridge to Laos, which can cut costs considerably.

If you wish to travel independently you can try applying to the Lao Embassy in Paris, but you are likely to be referred straight back to a company such as Regent. Chances may be higher if you go to Bangkok and try through the Lan Embassy there, or go through one of several specialist agencies in the Thai capital.

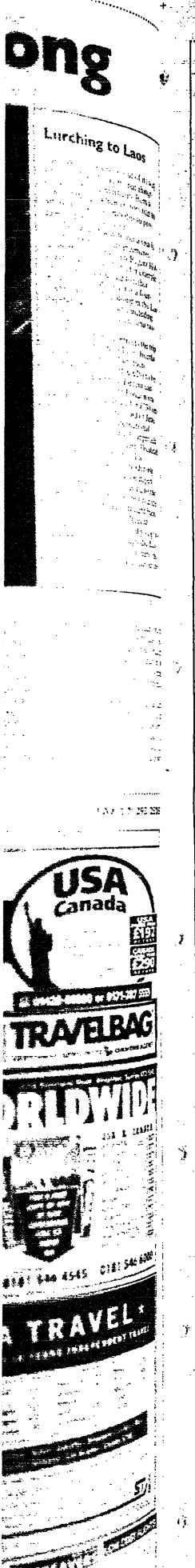
Photograph: Charcrit Boonsom

Such charms, though, are undoubtedly delicate and evanescent. With Laos's reemergence into the international world, and Luang Prabang's recent addition to UNESCO's World Heritage list (joining Angkor Wat and the Taj Mahal), the place is bound to change.

A Laos-based friend told me she feared that much of the country's unique culture will disappear over the next generation in is, of course, the recent collapse of the Asian currencies, making this a very inexpensive country to visit. Get there soon.









Hampstead - Keats loved it, Constable painted it... and Sarah Jewell spent a day exploring its other riches

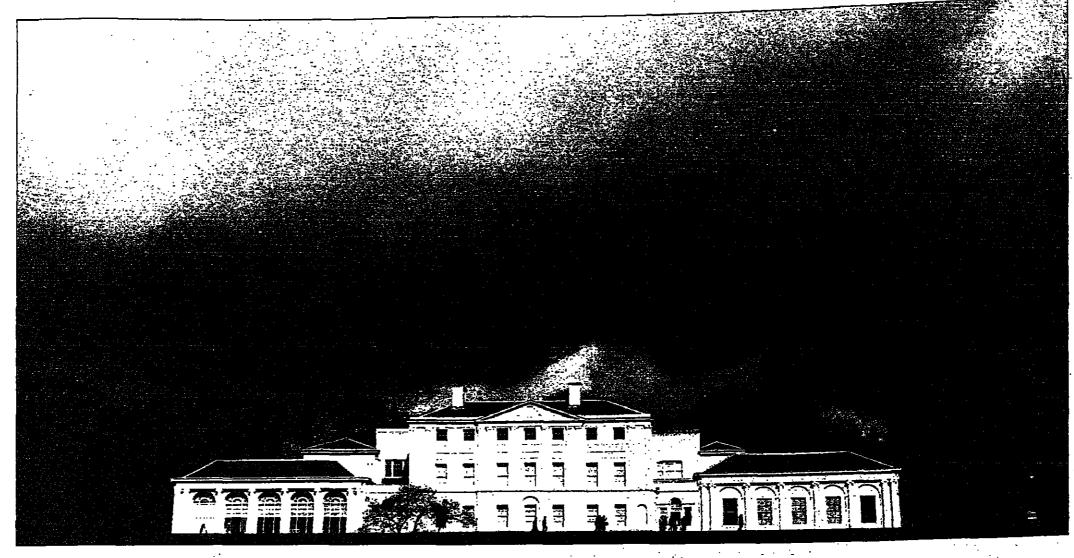
Hampstead, hill-top home to the rich and famous, first became fashionable in the 18th century when the discovery of spring water transformed the rural village into a sophisticated Georgian spa. The remedial waters, the fresh country air and the wide open heathland drew many creative spirits and the streets are studded with the names of writers, poets and painters who lived in the elegant Regency terraces that were built around the soa. Visitors to Hampstead today can still enjoy the invigorating breezes and catch glimpses of Constable's views over the heath - but mineral water is now sold in Arab teahouses, French cafes and American diners.

The visitors Sarah Jewell took Jessie Taube, 11, and Alice BrookSmith, 11, to Hampstead for

Sarah: Hampstead on a Sunday morning is peaceful and quiet as most of the shops do not open until midday. Parking restric-tions are lifted so it is also easy to find a space before the throng of afternoon shoppers arrives to battle its way into Hobbs, Jigsaw, Waterstone's, French Contury terrace (that may have looked chicathe National Trust in 1952 and has a denection and all the other swanky high street shops and restaurants.

Remarkable for having survived since the Fifties, the Austrian-style Coffee Cup friendly pub with a beer garden that welon the High Street is warm and cosy and the ideal spot for breakfast. Fortified with egg on toast and hot chocolate we walked up Gayton Road to Burgh House, the pretty Queen Anne building that is used for concerts and houses the Hampstead Museum of local history. We sat in sunshine in the beautifully tended garden and listened to Schubert's The Trout being rehearsed inside before we looked around the exhibits of Hampstead's history from Anglo Saxon

homestead to Nineties shopping mall. Hungry again, we meandered past the Regency houses in Downshire Hill and stared at 2 Willow Road, Erno Goldfin-



The villa and the village

today), past the cottages where Keats lived and on to the Freemason's Arms. a big comes children and serves a rather pricey

Real ale drinkers or those in search of a more intimate atmosphere should keep on walking to the Flask in Flask Walk, the original tavern where the spa water was bottled in the 18th century. For a tasty snack there's always La Creperie de Hampstead, the tiny pancake stall outside the King William IV pub on the High Street where freshly griddled savoury or sweet pancakes are flipped by two flushed Frenchwomen in white chef's smocks.

After lunch we walked to the top of the ger's Modernist adaptation of an 18th-cen- Fenton House. Built in 1693, it was left to

in the 1930s but which looks rather drab lightful collection of china, furniture, needlework and early keyboard instruments. The beautiful polished walnut, maplewood and mahogony harpsicords and virginals are all still played and musicians often come to practise on Sundays.

By mid-afternoon the streets of Hampstead are seething with shoppers and tourists and it is time to head for the fresh air of the Heath. Either drive or take the 210 bus from Whitestone Pond (or those with bounless energy and no children can walk) to Kenwood House. This magnificent 18th-century neoclassical villa overlooks sloping lawns and an ornamental lake, has a fine collection of paintings and is the jewel in Hampstead's crown.

high street and I wanted to go into Gap but

it wasn't open when we arrived. I liked the Constable room in Burgh House and see- Alice: The Coffee Cup was a bit smokey ing the paintings of Hampstead before the but it was all warm and old-fashioned and ouses were built.

lady who lives in the house gave us a really interesting talk about all the instru-ments. I especially liked looking at the how but I don't know how. keys on the harpsicords because the ebony and ivory had been swopped around on some of them and I wanted to play them. I enjoyed walking around the walled garden and there was a huge pink Magnolia tree.

painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds of a little girl standing by a table with sheep and lambs next to her. The garden was very pretty and we ran all the way down to the lake to look hill to visit Hampstead's oldest mansion. Jessie: I liked looking in the shops on the at the bridge - and we were very surprised to find out that it was a fake.

felt very homey and I had a delicious cake. Fenton House was really good and the I like listening to the music at Burgh House but the exhibition got quiet boring and it should have been improved some-

Fenton House was really interesting as there were so many little knick knacks to look at. I liked the snuff boxes and the little china houses with chimneys on top to put incense in. Some of the harpsicords had beautiful paintings on them and they were-Kenwood was very nice and I loved the really tempting. I wanted to sit down and play them all. The lady of the house told us that there was a little closet in every room behind the fireplace and I liked going to look

It was very cold outside at Kenwood and inside the rooms seemed empty after Fen-

lewel in the crown: Kenwood House Photograph: John Voos

ton House. I thought the library ceiling was beautiful, it had pictures painted on it in pink and blue and gold and had a freize of lions.

Hampstead tube is on the Northern Line on the London Underground. Burgh House, New End Square (0171 431 0144) open Wed-Sun 12-5pm. free. Fenton House, Hampstead Grove (0171 435 3471) open March, Sat&Sun 2pm-5pm. April to October Wed. Thurs, Fri 2pm-

5.30pm, Sat, Sun 11am-5.30pm, admission adults £3.60, children £1.80. Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane (0181 348 1286) open daily 10am-6pm, free. Keats House (0171 435 2062) is closed for

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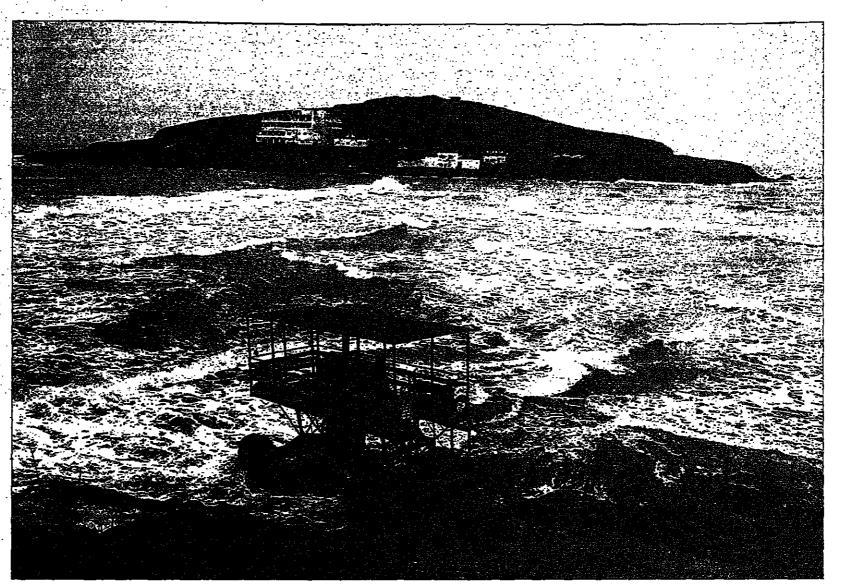
in the first of an occasional series following in the footsteps of fictional characters: Linda Cookson tracks down Agatha Christie's legendary Belgian detective on two of his notable visits to the south coast

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890, and retained an enduring love for Devon. Small wonder, then, that several of her Hercule Poirot novels take pleasure in introducing the continental super-sleuth to the delights of her native region.

In 1941, in Evil Under the Sun, Poirot is sent on holiday to a place that had particularly captured her imagination. As the book opens, he is reclining in a deckchair with trademark moustache "magnificently befurled" - surveying the bathing beach of the luxurious "Jolly Roger Hotel" on "Smuggiers' Island". Happily, it requires very little detective work for a modern reader to be able to pinpoint the location and, nearly 57 years later, to take almost the same holiday (minus the dead bodies).

Burgh Island, off the coast of South Devon, is connected to the seaside village of Bigbury-on-Sea by a sand bar. If the tide is in you'll need to make the crossing to the tiny island by giant sea tractor, a rickety-looking covered wagon on stilts. On arrival, you'll see the Burgh Island Hotel resting calmly, like a luxury Art Deco liner. amidst the surrounding green. Cross the mirrored foyer to the elegant Peacock Dome cocktail bar, arrange yourself decadently among the potted palms, order an Evil Under the Sun cocktail (an appropriately lethal concoction of brandy, apricot brandy, gin, grenadine and orange juice), and drink a toast to Poirot's choice of venue.

For those not already in the know, Burgh Island (which also features in And Then There Were None, as Nigger Island) is quite a find. It's a charming place for walking, with coves, beaches, cliff paths, rare flowers – and even a bird sanctuary. It can also lay



The mystery of Burgh Island: how do you get there?

Pilchard Inn, built in 1336. But the undisputed jewel in its crown is the hotel itself.

Built in 1929, it became a pleasure palace for the 1930s glitterati. Guests included Noël Coward and Edward and Mrs Simpson, as well as Agatha Christie herself. Over the last 12 years, following decades of dereliction and disrepair, it has been restored by new owners to its former glory.

Non-guests can visit to take afternoon tea in the sun lounge with its fan-shaped glass roof and pastel-coloured Lloyd loom chairs. Or you can book dinner in the period ballroom/restaurant, and dance between

claim to one of Britain's oldest pubs, the courses beneath romantic lighting from curved Art Deco sconces (formal dress is required). But for the ultimate "get away from it all" experience - and if you want to avail yourself of the pretty private beach and natural swimming pool, where Poirot was seen reclining - book one of the hotel's 14 suites. All have a bedroom, sitting room, private bathroom, sea view and in most cases a balcony, and all are beauti-

fully furnished in the Art Deco style. Perhaps the most fascinating of Poirot's Devon trips is less immediately reliveable. In 1938, in search of a new summer retreat. Agatha Christie bought Greenway House

- a Georgian mansion in dense woodland overlooking the River Dart. The landing stage. Greenway Quay, is a few hundred yards across the water from the picturesque South Hams village of Dittisham. In 1956, in Dead Man's Folly. Hercule Poirot pays his creator a visit in her own home.

Invited to solve a mystery by Agatha Christie's tongue-in-cheek alter ego. detective writer Ariadne Oliver, Poirot arrives at "Nasse House" on the "River Helm". To get there, he travels through a typical South Hams landscape. "down a country lane which wound between high hedges on either side. Presently the ground

fell away on the right and disclosed a very beautiful river view with hills of a misty blue in the distance". Dead Man's Folly features Greenway House, the boathouse, the quay

Photograph: Ape-

Disappointingly for Agatha Christic fans, a snoop inside Greenway House itself is out of the question. It remains the private family home of the author's daughter and her husband.

village of "Gitcham" over the river.

The nearest a determined pilgrim can get is to visit Greenway House's gardens on one of the three days a year on which they are open to the public through the 01803 722375.

National Garden Scheme (23 and 3) April are the remaining dates this year) or to visit the separate, walled nursery garden on the edge of the grounds. The latter is open to the public most afternoons.

But a stay across the Dart in Dittisham is perfectly possible - and a lovely way of sampling this distinctive riverside setting. The surroundings are reassuringly timeless. The bruss bell to summon the ferryman ior the crossing to Greenway Quay is still in use at the end of Dittisham's pontoon. And The Ferry Boat Inn - favourite pub in isead Man's Folly of old Merdell, the terriman remains a convivial watering hole. The village's other pub, the Red Lion, is similarly friendly, and gets its own mention in Ordeal by Innocence, a non-Poirot novel set in Dittisham itself.

In its tranquil location, once famous for orchards of damson and plum. Dittisham is hasically a potterer's paradise. The pace of life is somewhere between dead slow and stop - ideal for long muddy walks by the river and creeks or across wooded high ground. And the location is especially appealing to river enthusiasts. Even Chief Inspector Bland takes to the water at one point In Dead Man's Folh, although Poirot sticks resolutely to dry land.

At Burgh Island Hotel prices for bed, breakfast and dinner per person per night range from £94 to £119 for a stay of five nights or more. For further Information uncluding details about weddings, which can also be arranged on the island) call 01548 810514.

Many visitors to Dittisham choose to rent conages. The main provider is Dittisham Contages (01803 722561), which handles 26 or so properties. Toud Hall Cottages (01548) 853777) also has auractive properties in the village, mainly on the waterfront. For those in search only of a brief fix of this

corner of Poirot's Devon or for those limited to a short stay, the Red Lion Inn (01803 722235) charges £27.50 per person for bed and breakfast in a double room with private bathroom and river view.

Bed and breakfast for two with private bathand the nearby youth hostel, as well as the room in The White House, an 18th-century traditional stone-built cottage, is £25 per person (01803 722355).

Cheapest of the lot - and very pleasant - is bed and breakfust at Cott Farm, a working farm just outside the village and with more distant views across the Dart, at £10 per person for a double room (01803 722249).

At Dittisham, boats can be hired. Ring

If simply observing something has an effect on it, what does turning up with 300 tourists and a

Boeing do? Try cycling

A frame around the world

If you really want to expose yourself to world's most beautiful places, says Eric Kendall, don't travel with a roof over your head

One of travel's great ironies is up with 300 tourists in a Boedinger's paradoxical cat: if sim- est in the first place? ply observing something has an

that visiting the place of your ing do? And never mind."take dreams leads (little by little) to only pictures and leave only its ruin. Meanwhile the tourist footprints", what about the board tries to preserve its in- state of the exhaust on the bus terpretation of what it wants you that got you to the remote side to see. It's a version of Schro- of the island/mountain/rain for-

The answer to this dilemma effect on it, what does turning is off-road travel on a bicycle.

The people who throw up their hands in horror at the thought of erosion caused by mountain bike tyres in the hills presumably haven't tried riding any distance. It's hard work, which makes it self-limiting. Add enough luggage to survive out in the wilds and you're knackered long before you've made

too many dents in the turf. Which makes it sound about as much fun as mending a puncture in the rain. The trick lies in pacing yourself. Biting off exactly what you want to chew leaves you in shape to appreciate the best bit - arriving in the most incredible landscapes to find no-one. Nothing to spoil the view, no sound to break the

> There is also the physical and mental challenge that is a key component for many "expedition tourers". To start with you simply don't know if you can make it, but succeeding in the face of the unknown is a rare pleasure. Some of these biking challenges are incremental; working your way day by day from Land's End to John O'Groats, or from Calais to Venice means you don't give the knee-popping total mileage too much thought, and there are

roads the whole way.

often no option, anyway. get nightmare, don't forget that you're only doing it right if your hike costs more than your new kitchen and your paired-down selection of kit is worth substantially more than its weight

in gold. Minimalism is the name of the game, which doesn't come cheap. But it's an extraordinarily complete feeling to know that all you need to survive, day after day, is stashed in

a couple of bags on the back of

In the saddle

Off-road touring can be as extreme or gentle as you want to make it but needn't be long-distance or take weeks on end. The UK and Europe are full of weekend opportunities that can easily be reached by train. Mountainous regions generally fulfil all the criteria - they're spectacular, have interesting weather, and are full of tracks but have few roads.

For longer trips, a combination of quality bikes, good equipment and experience are essential, as is choosing the right area - many countries have heavily used roads and appalling standards of driving (whatever your intentions, you will inevitably have to use roads cious use of public transport is an effective way to save your legs for the best bits. Buses. trains, boats and planes are usually surprisingly accessible with a bike, but double check arrangements before booking tickets. British Airways has given me VIP status just for turning up with a bike. The same can't be said for all the rail services in the UK but the situation seems to be improving.

For access to the Continent, the European Bike Express (01642 25 1440; evenings: 01642 750077) provides coach travel with a bike trailer to various destinations in France, Italy and

The Cyclists' Touring Club (Cotterell House, 69 Meadrow,



campaigning locally to maintain rights of way for cyclists. Two

leathers on off-road riding are

14 million people, from the

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need you.

instead Photographs Penny Lendall available to non-members if you send an SAE: Gearing Up, a fact file giving rules and tips for riding off road; and Forest Enterprise, which gives information on forest tracks open to cyclists. Members can also re-

and tips on what to take and when to go. The Rough Stuff Fellowship (e-mail 100613.2347/@compuserve.co) has regional clubs (which predate the invention of the mountain bike)

for organised rides off-road.

quest excellent fact files on countries, which give informa-

tion on destinations and routes

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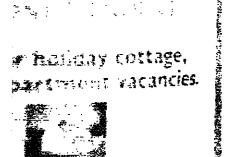
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They shoot ponies... don't they?

The animals that have formed an essential part of the New Forest scene for centuries have become too numerous. So should we cull them, asks Duff Hart-Davis

Anyone who goes to the New Forest grazing in little herds in the open, or in glades among the trees. Observant visitors will also notice that at this time of year every blade of grass is eaten down to a length that would raise no eyebrows on a golf green.

The ponies have been an essential ingredient of the New Forest scene for centuries, and in the past they have been widely used for breeding, for riding, as pets and for meat. Yet today there is almost no demand for them. less controlled by market forces - but now the market has collapsed, and you can buy an excellent foal for £5.

The result is that stocks have risen putting an excessive strain on the vegetation. But how to cut numbers down from the total of about 4,000? So old and complex are local traditions that it is extremely difficult to bring about any worthwhile reduction.

The problem derives from the fact this weekend will see half-wild ponies that the commoners - the 400-odd peowandering beside (or on) the roads, ple with land in and around the forest - have certain ancient rights, prime among which is that of pasture: the right to graze cattle, ponles, donkeys and (in some cases) sheep on unfenced land. There is no limit on the number of animals that any one commoner may turn out, and nobody has the power to enforce any drastic reduction. The task of supervising the animals' welfare falls on the Agisters, the practical managers, who are servants of the ruling Court of 10 Verderers. Every day in winter Until recently numbers were more or and early spring the Agisters are out on the ground, checking the ponies' condition, and in autumn they help the commoners organise more than 40 drifts, or round-ups, in which the to an all-time high, and they are ponies are driven in and herded into corrals for branding and worming.

Each year the Verderers hold two stallion inspections, at which animals are checked for conformation. The great majority pass, and go on for veterinary tests, but any that fail



Population explosion: there are now about 4,000 New Forest ponies

must be removed from the forest. This, then, is one form of quality

control. The ideal New Forest pony recognised as a breed of its own - is a stocky creature of about 13 hands, It can be light grey, black, bay or chest- to the runners-up. nut: all colours are accepted except skewbalds, piebalds and blue-eved creams. Yet the rules remain very loose. Although all stallions must be registered at two years of age through the New Forest Breeding and Cattle Society, many mares remain unregistered, and sub-standard specimens are easy to find.

Nobody knows the ponies better than the Head Agister. Brian Ingram, whose family have been commoners for generations. Brian was born in the forest, had his first pony at 14, and took up the job of Agister when a place became vacant in 1959, while he was still doing national service.

"Numbers are a problem now." he agrees. "But it isn't our job to tell commoners how many animals they can keep. A lot comes down to the individual's sense of responsibility."

Even so, a new attempt is now being made to start improving quality.

nanced by a Life Two grant from Brussels, in which premiums of £100 will be awarded to the four mares judged best, with 500 premiums of £55 apiece

The contest was the idea of Richard Stride, scion of another commoning family, and a Forestry Commission keeper. He is disappointed that only 900 mares were entered this first year, but points out that "commoners are very suspicious of anything new. Now that they realise there's nothing sinister in the scheme, there'll be more of them in it next time."

Why, if the ponies are all but worthless, do people keep so many of them? "Purely out of sentiment and tradition," he says. Yet the point is that, in conservation terms, the animals do an indispensable job. Apart from grass, their favourite foods are heather, gorse and holly, and by their continuous browsing they keep the forest open. Without their formidable eatingpower, the whole place would become choked with undergrowth, because the cost of clearing it mechanically would be impossibly high. Boggy areas, now rich in plant and wildlife, would turn

Photograph: John Lawrence

launched this spring and partly fi- to jungle, for heavy machines cannot work on such soft ground.

The ponies' appetite for spiky holleaves is amazing. In winter, when the foresters start pollarding the trees, the scream of chain saws draws prospective diners from far and wide: they have learnt that the noise heralds a banquet, and gather eagerly to munch the manna falling out of the sky.

Looking ahead, Richard Stride has a simple plan for redressing the present imbalance. The commoners are in the driving seat, if only they'd realise it." he says. "They should harden their hearts and cull half the

He reckons that if the total came down to 2,000, undergrowth would begin to engulf the forest, to the chagrin of the seven million tourists who visit every year. The change would also alarm English Nature, which, together with the Forestry Commission, is responsible for conservation. Goaded by visions of the whole area running out of control, Mr Stride believes the authorities would step in with financial incentives to push numbers back to an ideal total

Nature note

In all the spring eruption of greenery along road verges and field margins, nothing grows more vigorously than stinging nettles. Isabella Beeton, writing in 1861, declared that "young nettles are very pleasant to eat, resembling spinach," and gave recipes for nettile broth, soup and beer. Rustic apothecaries once recommended nettle tea as a cure for sciatica, arthritis and pimples, and a generation ago Richard Mabey extolled the delights of nettle haggis in

his splendid Food for Free. Today, however, it is hard to think of any plant more useless to the rural economy. Sheep and cattle won't touch nettles, because the leaves are defended by guard hairs called trichomes, each

tipped by a pointed cell which can penetrate skin and then break off, releasing a poisonous fluid. Anyone who has fallen into a bed of nettles will know how the stings bring up itching white lumps. The best remedy is also one of the oldest: to rub the area vigorously with a dock-leaf.

Nettles are greedy: they flourish in good soil, and absorb a lot of water. They can rapidly invade pastures and are hard to eradicate. Farmers spend thousands spraying them with herbicide, only to see them spring up in the same places next year.

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the Bat Conservation fund. "Goths" meet on Thursday evening at Whithy's Buck Inn. on Friday evening at the Elfinore pub. and on Saturday at Whithy Spa Theatre (tickets £6). More information from Whitby Tourist Information 01947 602674.

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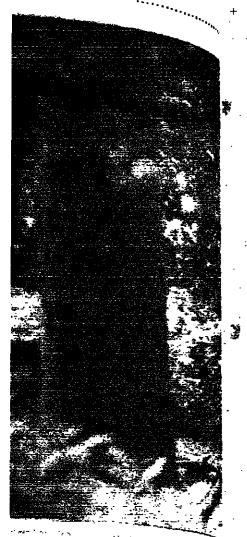
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POWER

Art or craft? A suburban patch transformed

Workshop: How do you create a garden in keeping with a Lutyens house? Anna Pavord offers some advice

We live in an Arts and Crafts period house in Hampstead Garden Suburb, one of seven terraced houses, designed by Lutyens, set round a square with formal front gardens. The houses are deemed to be of special architectural interest and are Grade II listed.

It is our back garden which presents the problem. It is oblong and measures roughly 50ft wide by 40ft deep. It's a mess and badly needs to be rethought. We love the house and its setting but are ashamed of the garden in its present state. We are keenly aware of the importance of getting the garden right - mistakes can't be hidden in a small space. We are also keen to create a garden which is in harmony with its overall setting.

Maralyn Roberts wrote this letter after reading a piece I'd written about Arts and Crafts gardens for the Independent magazine. She, her husband and their two daughters moved into their home five years ago. Having finished updating the inside, she's now anxious to get to grips with the outside and create a setting that will reflect the special period quality of the house.

The little square is an unexpected delight, designed by Edwin Lutyens in 1909 with his usual fine attention to detail. The layout is simple and formal, the houses built of lavender grey brick, contrasting with a redder brick used round doors and windows. The most prominent houses, facing on to the road, have bow fronts with chequerboard squares of brick, alternating

Which of the pictures of Arts and Crafts gardens in the original magazine piece most closely reflected the kind of gar-



den Mrs Roberts dreamed of? She pointed first to the neat clipped box hedges and topiary peacocks of the white garden at Hidcote in Gloucestershire, then at a length of drystone walling running parallel with Lutyens' water rill at Hester-

combe in Somerset. Well, that's a lot to get into a rectangle 50ft x 40ft, but it gave me a good idea of Mrs Roberts' taste. And as it happened, elements of both could easily fit into the space they've got. The main door into the garden leads on to an uneven concreted area which is crying out to be repaved in brick, laid herringbone fashion, like the original parquet floor in the house.

The garden is wider than it is long, which is unusual in London, but the dimensions (5:4) are comfortable ones to work with. A very rough retaining wall, built of clinker and covered in mounds of periwinkle and

candytuft, separates the concreted area (which continues as a path along the back of the house) from the rest of the garden. set about three feet higher.

Privet hedges bound the garden on three sides and must be kept. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust is (quite rightly) fierce in protecting the area, and all residents have to submit plans for any alterations, even in their gardens. It was important that any new work should be sympathetic and likely to gain approval.

A wide border runs back from the top of the retaining wall, and most of the rest of the garden is lawn. The border is in the right place as the plants there will not have to share their food and drink with privet, which is a greedy beast.

You could fill it with old-fashioned flowers: peonies, columbines, poppies, tulips and lilies. The garden is formal in shape,

and Luivens' overall design for the close cordon pears in a criss-cross trellis pattern. Arts and Crafts gardeners loved fruit is formal, too. It seemed silly to fight against that. Straight lines would be bettrees, and this would provide a decorative element without having to widen the borter than wiggles.

I suggested that the retaining wall be replaced with a better built one, using the flat. thin stones that Lutyens so often favoured for garden walls. Wide, shallow steps would line up with the door from the house to lead into the higher level.

Mrs Roberts wanted a pond. This could sit in the centre of the lawn, a plain rectangular pool made in the same 5:4 proportions as the rest of the garden and painted black inside to reflect the sky. The edging needed to be plain and restrained: cut York stone like the paths that Lutyens had laid to the front doors of the houses.

Along the back boundary, set in a narrow border in front of the privet facing the house, the Robertses could plant

Roberts plans a recreation of an Arts and Crafts garden in Hampstead Garden Suburbs Photography Micola flurta

In search of harmony: Maralyn

hedge and add two big box balls, one either side of the stone steps leading up

Against the south-facing, left-hand butder, the Robertses had put their rustic bench. It's the right piace for it, because this is the sunniest spot in the garden. The could put up a wire arbour round it and grow rambling roses over it to swamp the seat with scent. Mrs Roberts could also use this widened south-tacing border for the herbs she is keen to grow.

So the actual layout of the garden could be resolved quite simply, but its success will depend absolutely on the quality of the materials used in its reconstruction. Liverish modern engineering brick will not be a good match for Lutyens' originals. The Robertses will have to haunt reclamation yards to find matching bricks to ower the concrete area outside the dining room door.

And once they have got the bricks, they need a craftsman who knows how to key them. Attention to detail was the trademark of the Arts and Crafts period. If the bricks are laid herringbone fashion, they ought purhaps to be enclosed in a border of pricks laid end to end in straight runs. And the Robertses might like to design a centrepiece for the brick terrace, as Gertrude Jokyli often did with her paths. They could set scraps of flint in a square, round a sunkennest of clay flowerpots - nothing too

The retaining wall needs to look good too; concrete blocks, even rendered ones. will not do. The texture of the retaining wall that Mrs Roberts liked in the Hestercombe picture can't be achieved without using the same materials. And there must be plenty of space between the stones for hanging swags of Spanish daisy and small blue harebells. Texture comes expensive in London, but a Lutyens house shouldn't be it. Hideote style, with a low clipped box fobbed off with less.

CUTTINGS

"You thought that highlighting brown-ended spider plants might be a mistake," writes Marian Wilson of Ravenshead, Notts, referring to a piece that appeared in Cuttings (Independent 28 February). "I have two large spider plants, which in spite of pampering, still dangle their brown tips. I tear them off in frustration, but the brownness creeps But spider plants are greedy things overwatering. But which?"

18.20

EROIL

That's one of the tricky things



higher until, in the end, I've per- and brown tips on leaves are often 10am to 6pm. admission £6). Comformed a complete leafectomy. I, the result of underfeeding. They petitions, displays, demonstrations suspect the fault lies in under or like to lap up Baby Bio every time music take place in the dramatically they are watered.

about houseplants. Symptoms brown tips is central heating. The series. For further information often have entirely opposite causes. plants can't take in water as fast as phone 01726 844157.

they are losing it. Spider plants need liberal watering from now until autumn, though less during winter. If they are watered too much while they are growing slowly, they often develop unsightly brown streaks along the leaves.

Anyone heading to the West

Country should make their way to the Lost Gardens of Heligan, where the Cornwall Garden Society is holding a spectacular Theatre of Flowers from 24-26 April (open restored splendour of the Heligan Another common cause of garden, star of the recent television

WEEKEND WORK

Unfortunately we do not seem to be as far into spring as we were in February. I'm anxious about frost as many plants are ludicrously far advanced in growth. Our gunnera was smashed back by a late frost a few years ago and has taken time to build up its confidence again. Another shock might be terminal.

The rain has been ideal for newly planted trees and the like. Soak all bare-rooted trees in a bucket for an hour and stand plants in pots to soak in a tray overnight before they are planted. This will keep them ticking over .

yellow flesh, excellent for potato salad. It's usually ready for lifting by the middle of June. The first row of rocket (Marshalls, 66p) has also gone in. It is as easy as mustard and cress to grow. Sow at two-week intervals for a permanent supply of young leaves. Growing your own highlights the outrageous price that rocket sells for in supermarkets. Try some on a window sill.

der there. A mixture of Williams Bon

Chretien, Fondante d'Automne, Beurre

Hardy and Packham's Triumph would

provide blossom and fruit over a long

the pool was in place and the proportions

of the lawn redrawn, making it less wide

in relation to its depth. You could do this

by nibbling at the borders on the right- and

left-hand boundaries. At the moment.

they are no more than a foot or so wide.

leaving no space to plant in front of the

When the lawn had been restored to

more pleasing proportions, I'd surround

The lawn would need to be relaid once

Mark barren daffodil clumps with a cane to Continue to plant vegetables when condi-starts again. A generous handful of bonemeal so I've been pricking them out into single pots. tions seem tolerable. I have just put in two short or some proprietary bulb booster added now rows of a French potato called Belle de Fonte- will help to bulk up the bulbs and encourage nay (Marshalls, £8.95 for 2kg). It makes them to perform well next season. Some smooth, kidney-shaped tubers with creamy people use foliar feeds for the same purpose. dedicated procreators.

Hyacinths can be planted outside when they have finished flowering indoors - with a handful of bonemeal to build them up. They sometimes take a season to recover.

Continue to sow seeds of annual flowers and prick out seedlings showing their first pairs of true leaves. I have been pricking out Zinnia Alborts (Mr Fothergill, £1). I fell for zinnias in a big way after seeing a fabulous bed of them remind you to lift, separate and replant the congested bulbs some time between July and Sep- Sussex. He says the secret is to grow them withtember - well before the new season's growth out a check. They hate disturbance at the roots.

> Keep on top of weeds. Bittercress and groundsel are in flower now and both are

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GARDENING



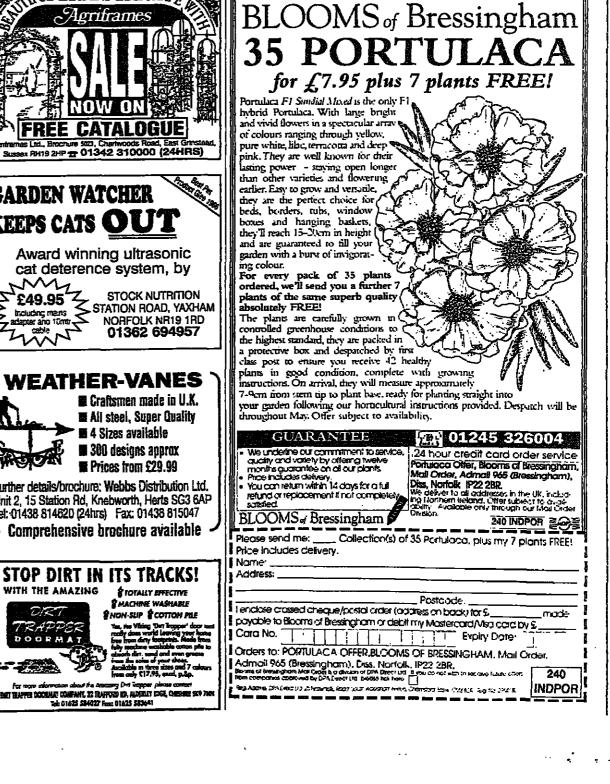


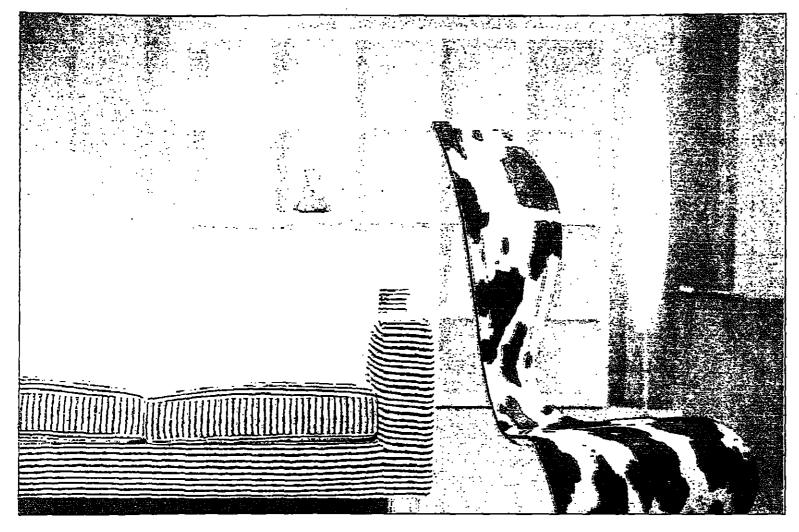
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WITH THE AMAZING





Watch whose chair you sit in

The stuff of ... cool Caledonia. Designer heaven is alive and well in Glasgow, writes

if you want to combine avant-garde with the functional when you go furniture shopping, take a trip to Glasgow's Italian Centre and visit Nice House. There's a range of flamboyant designs in homeware and lighting that can only

be classified as distinctly cool. It might be hard to lounge in the distinctive Tom Dixon S-shaped chair (£950) but it certainly makes an eye-catching piece of

Another popular item at Nice House is the indestructible aluminium prison chair at a more accessible £195. And for those who want something to relax on, how about Antonio Citterio's luxurious three-seater Harry sofa popular?

Nice House also distributes for the Dutch company Droog and the accessories department offers innovative designs in glassware: Pyrex milk and sugar pourers (£42.25) and a selection of cobalt wobble vases - from around

lemon squeezers, ashtravs and wine control, Tom Dixon style

Manager Andy Garrold explains that Nice House aims to bring together products that are the epitome of good design in terms of both function and aesthetics. "Furniture, lighting and accessories from throughout Europe and America designed during the 20th century can be seen on display on the showroom floor. Classics from the design greats - Le Corbusier's 1927 Chaise Longue, for example - sell to those keen to buy themselves a piece of design history. And alongside that are contemporary items like the S-chair for those wishing to have a piece of cut-

£40. There are designer corkscrews and Seating arrangements: postural

ting-edge design in their homes." The hallmark of designer products is often a breathtaking price tag and bargain hunters might find £6,000 for a Sisterni storage system a little steep for a series of box-like shelves. The Quicken Box, at £260, is neat way to convert a storage space into a desk - ideal for those who work from home and have limited space.

Nice House is at The Italian Centre Courtyard, Glasgow G1 1HD (0141

A good weed

The taste of ... the sea. The coast around the French port of Roscoff has become one of the most important areas for harvesting seaweed, writes Nikki Spencer

looking scythes, a team of specially trained pickers products) but also provides thousands of visitors will wade through rock pools, cutting the weed every year with tours of their factory and sea-

by hand, making sure to leave a stem so it can grow back again for the next year.

The amount harvested - between 100 and 500 kilos a day is nothing in comparison to that collected and consumed in Japan, where they harvest the stuff using a machine looking like a cross between a landing craft and a combine harvester. But it is particularly significant because of the variety of seaweeds that grow in Brittany, and the quality of the

Every day, weather permitting, from now on until October the scaweed will be cut. put into buckets and

over France, the UK (this is where Tesco, who started selling seaweed last autumn, get their supplies) and even Japan, when certain varieties are in short supply.

Until about 15 years ago, the main reason seathe cauliflowers and artichokes for which the region is well known.

About 17 years ago, local people started to For tours of the seaweed factory and tastings con-

Any day now, this year's seaweed harvest will begin on the beaches of Brittany. Using ancient- able form (seasonings, soups, sauces and bath

Where to find

ceaweed. Many restaurants in and around Roscoff now cook with seaweed. Two where you can eat an entire seaweed menu of starter. main course and dessert - you can have a type of ice-cream with seaweed sprinkled on it - are: Le Temp de Vivre, Place de l'Eglise, Roscoff (00-332 98.61.27.28) and La Pomme D'Api, 49 Rue de Verderel. St Pol de (00-332 Leon 98.69.04.36).

At one of the best shops in Brittany -

taken to the village of St Pol de Leon, where it and even in France - Histoire de Chocolat. 60 is sorted, washed and packed in salt ready to be - Rue de Siam in Brest (00-332 98.44.66.09) you dispatched to restaurants and supermarkets all can even buy chocolate with seaweed. The shop also operates a mail-order service.

Seaweed from Brittany is available at some branches of Tesco, price £1.99 for a 100g punnet. There are two varieties. Sea lettuce is green weed was collected in this area was for use in and feathery and can be used in cooked dishes cosmetics and to provide fertiliser for growing or salads, and dulse is in rich red ribbon-like strips and is popular in soups and with pasta.

harvest and sell edible seaweed to restaurants. tact Monique Vernier at Algopius, Rue St Michel Perzinsky and his partner Monique Marie, St Pol de Leon, near Roscoff (00-332 Vernier saw a gap in the market and set up 98.29.13.06) The company is moving to larger Algophus, a company that not only sells marine premises in Roscoff in the summer.

GAMES

Sally Staples

Look at these two sets of words:

1A: STICK, LIGHT, BIRTHDAY 1B: PARTY, ROUND, MARK.

In one of the sets, the three words have a common association - a word that can be linked to all three of them. In the other set, however, no such connection is intended to exist. Here are two more such sets:

24: HOUSE, LION, BUTTER

3A: WATER, TOBACCO, LINE 3B: SIXTEEN, SPIN, TENDER

I came across these puzzles in Hare Brain, Tortoise Mind, by Guy Claxton (published by 4th Estate, £10.00), one of the most thoughtful books about thinking I have come across in a long time. As wordpuzzles, there is nothing particularly

THINKING WILLIAM HARTSTON

special or unusual here, but Claxton cites them in the context of a revealing psychological experiment.

Subjects were given these and similar lists and asked to spot the connections. If they could not find the connecting words, they were asked to guess which of the triples had something in common. The results showed that even when people could not work out the right answer, they guessed correctly more often than would have been expected

One could, of course, put this down to some hidden linguistic similarity between words that have a common linkage. Perhaps they have more in common than the experimenters thought. Perhaps the experimenters were subconsciously making the triplets of unconnected words even more unconnected than they might have been. That theory, however, is firmly countered by an

even more striking experiment devised by Pawel Lewicki at the University of Tulsa

Subjects were given a simple task involving numbers on a computer screen. For the purpose of the experiment, the screen is divided into four quarters by a vertical cross through the centre. Scattered about each quarter, a jumble of five digits appears, and the subject has to push one of four buttons to indicate which quadrant contains the sole number 6. fter a pause, a different display of numbers appears, and the subject does it again. After seven trials, there is a longer pause, then seven more, followed by more blocks of seven.

With practice, subjects get faster. Now - and here comes the crucial point - although the location of the 6 appears to move randomly, there is a very subtle pattern hidden in the experimental design. It turns out that if you know where the 6 is in trials

one, three, four and six of each set of seven, then you can work out where it will appear on trial number seven.

No subjects are told about the pattern; when asked after the experiments whether they have spotted a pattern they all say no; and when told there is a pattern and asked if they can work it out, nobody has yet done so. Yet the experiments show that when subjects have reached optimal speed, their response times to every seventh trial are quicker than on the other six.

Unconsciously, we can detect and act upon patterns of which we are consciously unaware. We know things without knowing we know them, and act accordingly. Claxton's book is full of examples such as this. Of course, we all knew them all the time. But you need to read the book to know that you know them. CONNECTIONS: 1A (Candle);

2B (Carpet); 3A (Pipe).

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Stephen Watt-Smith, 49, maxillofacial

From my point of view, a game is the challenge of a three-dimensional problem. If it's a hole in the tummy, you just stitch up the wound, and other people won't know that there's four feet of bowel missing, or whatever.

When you reconstruct a face, you're dealing with function and appearance. If I make a new lower jaw and I get the angle wrong, then your teeth won't meet properly. ing is compromised and spee deteriorates. People's social lives are destroyed very quickly if they're made

miserable every time they look in a mirror. The trouble with a face is that you can't deglove its soft tissues. Until recently, if I was attempting to make a jaw, all I could do was guess at where the majority of the bone was arranged beneath the soft tissues. And if I got it wrong - when I was rebuilding an eye-socket for instance - then the patient developed double vision, which is very disturbing.

To cut quite a long story short, we now have a computerised system that can make an accurate model of any part of the patient's skull. All the little nooks and crannies are reproduced, and I can practise any surgery onscreen, or manufacture implants or plates before we actually go into the operating theatre. A sort of Blue Peter "Here's one I made earlier".

The game is identifying the problem and beating it. I'm a lousy loser. I might graciously shake hands with people after a cricket match, but I can't tolerate being less than

Some of the reconstructive surgery we did 20 years ago was so poor that we didn't dare ask the patients what they thought about it. If you're drooling saliva, and your facial appearance is grossly abnormal, then the quality of life isn't good enough.

Useful background material on this subject may be found in "Art and the Full Prosthesis" by Edward Samson. Sadly, however, that book has been out of print for some 20 years.

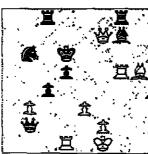
CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

You can divide strong players into two groups: those who are good at making things happen in their games, and those who are good at preventing things from happening - the proactive and the reactive, one might say. World champions such as Fischer and Kasparov fall into the proactive category. Their games shine with an energy that drives the game onwards and dictates the course of events. Champions such as Petrosian and Karpov, however, fail more naturally in the reactive category. Their strength lies in anticipating the opponent's plans and slowly stifling them.

Of British grandmasters. one man who is always trying to push the position into doing what he wants is James Plaskett. Even when things get totally out of control, as they do in the following game from the latest round of the 4NCL in Birmingham, you feel that he deliberately steered it off the highway. White's 10.Qb3 made very

little sense. Quite apart from allowing Black to double his fpawns. White decided against capturing on b7 anyway. Black obtained a comfortable game from the opening, and White's 13.K/i followed by f4 and h4 was more an attempt to create a messy position than a logical attacking plan.

When Black played 18...b5. he must have been very content, 20.Bxb5 is met by 20...Nxd5! when both



21.Rxd5 Bxc3 and 21.Bxd7 Nxc3+ win material for Black. Accepting the piece offer with 24...Qxb5, Black simply

did not believe White's attack on the other wing, but with his king lured out into the open, the defence quickly proved too difficult. At the end (see diagram) 35.R1xd5+ Nxd5 (or 35...Kc6 36.Rc5+ Kd6 37.Rgd5+) 36.Rxd5+ Kc6 37.Qd7+ Kb6 38.Rb5+ Ka6 39.Qb7 is mate.

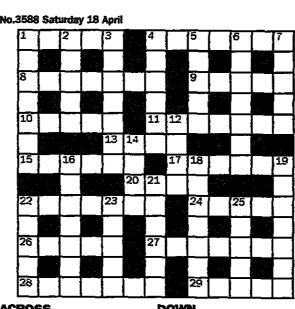
	mes Plaskett Vigel Povah
1 d4 Nf6	19 axb5 axb5
2 c4 e6	20 Nxb5 Nxd5
3 Nf3 c5	21 Rh3 N7b6
4 d5 exd5	22 f5 Qd7
5 exd5 d6	23 h5 c4
6 Nc3 g6	24 hxgó Qxb3
7 Bg5 Bg7	25 gxf7+ Kxf7
8 c3 a6	26 f6 Nxf6
9 a4 Bg4	27 Bxf6 Kxf6
10 Qb3 Bxf3	28 Qxh7 Qc5
11 gxf3 (1-0	29 Rg3 Rg8
12 Be2 Nbd7	30 Qh4+ Kf7
13 Kf1 Qc7	31 Bh5+ Ke6
14 f4 Rfe8	32 Rg5 Qb2
15 Qc2 b6	33 Qf4 d5
16 Rd1 Qb7	34 Qf7+ Kd6

17 b3 Rac8

18 h4 b5

Black resigned

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Follow (5) Story told by Jesus (7) Serious (7) Load (5) Projection forming part

of carpentry joint (5) 13 Son of Adam (4) 15 Mob (6) Points to be decided (6) Teenage spots (4)

Financial support (7) At no time (5) Fire-raising (5) Defensive tower (7) 28 Hold spellbound (7) 29 Source of energy (5)

DOWN

Voter (7) Temptress (5) Everlasting (7) Small and dainty (6) Happen again (5)

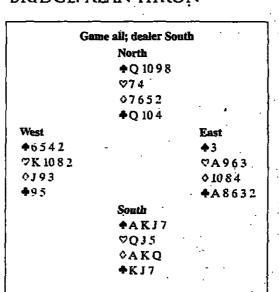
Haggle (7) Run off together (5) 12 Dash (4) Part of necklace (4) 16 Look after child (4-3) 18 OT book (7) 19 Word formed from ini-

tials (7) 21 Musical instrument (6) 22 Allotted portion (5) 23 Interior (5) 25 Speech organ (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Hex. 3 Spars (Expats), 7 Misnomer, 8 Onys. 9 Congregation, 10 Steppe, 12 Please, 14 Constabulary, 18 Menu. 19 Magnolia, 20 Agent, 21 Yet. DOWN; 1 Haircut, 2 Xenon, 3 Shrug, 4 Apostle, 5 Say-so, 6 Emerge, 11 Pasture, 12 Plunge, 13 Stylist, 15 Ottega, 16 Admit, 17 Agony.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



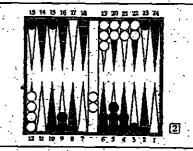
Even one-word pleasantries at the table can prove costly. There was the British player who reached Six No-trumps, inspected dummy to see 13 top tricks and said: "Pity!" His French opponents claimed that he had called: "Petit!" (which would have enabled them to win a trick). Fortunately, the tournament director ws bilingual.

There was a less happy ending on this deal where South ended in Four Spades. The defence started with H2 to the ace, H3 to the jack and king and, after some thought, a third heart. It seemed clear that the suit was breaking 4-4 so, after studying dummy's spot cards closely, declarer flamboyantly requested: "Anything!" Dummy chose D2.

Two rounds of trumps then revealed the 4-1 break and, forced to abandon trumps, declarer tried the clubs. But East ducked the first round, and now there was no way of avoiding either a club ruff or, if trumps were drawn, CA and another heart.

So what should dummy have played at trick three? A club discard is surely best; then, as long as the clubs are not 6-1, the suit can be played safely after two rounds of trumps when the 4-1 break is

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



This position caused heated argument in the Double Fives chouette the other night. White (the team) had doubled early and then Black (the box) had turned the game around and put two of White's men on the bar. The box now redoubled. Three of the four team members dropped the double with but a moment's thought. The fourth (and strongest) member pondered long and hard but eventually he too dropped the double, muttering something like "I'm sure it's a take but we will lose a lot of gammons so maybe it's a drop."

This is not an easy position to evaluate but over the board White should reason something like this: "Black is likely to make his 3-point next roll but after that he is likely to try to prime my men rather than blitz them, as my strong home board will deter him from the blitzing option. This will give me time to bring in my two men and anchor on either his 1-point or 2-point. From there I will have a reasonable chance to hit a shot and win the game. Additionally, Black may not cover his blot on the 3-point and if I hit it I will be well back into the game. Finally Black may have difficulty getting his men out of my home board and I may get the chance to hit one of them as he tries to bring them around the board. All in all I think I have enough chances to win that I can accept the double, despite the gammon risk."

The lesson is that you cannot just glance at the board, see two men on the bar and drop the double. You must consider all aspects of the position and try to understand how the game will develop and what your winning variations could be. Occasionally you will still get it wrong but that is better than just making a

subjective decision. Objective analysis pays dividends. The stronger player in the chouette was swayed by the opinions of his weaker partners. He should have believed in his own analysis and taken the double.

Weed

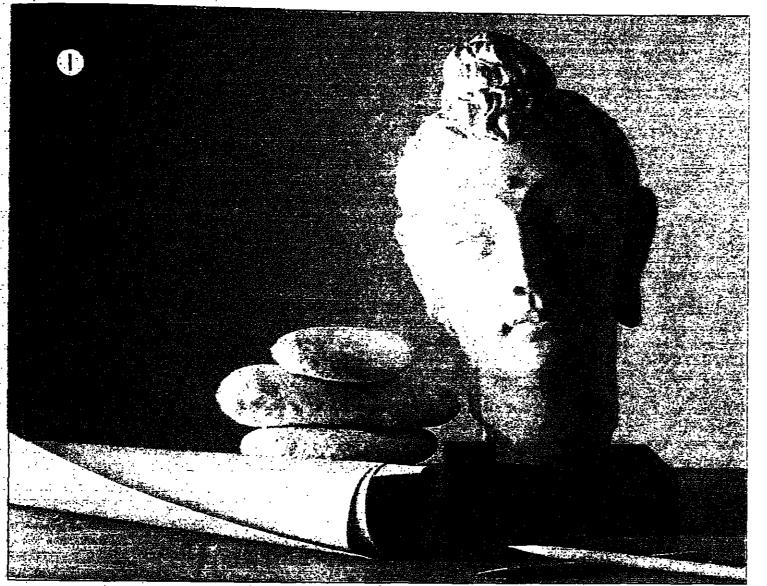
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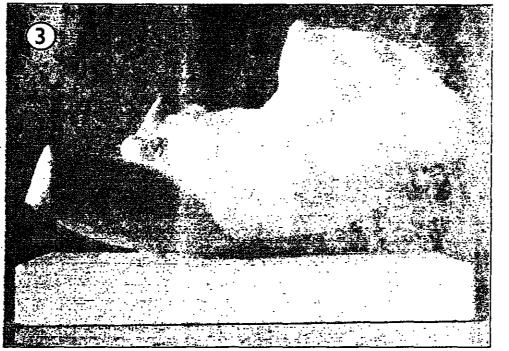
Set in stone

Reproduction art can be clichéd but who has a classical statue in their living room, asks Claire Gervat

What is it about statues? People fret about the pictures they hang on the wall, but ignore the potential of a well placed sculpture to add an immediate dramatic focus to a room. It can't be a question of price alone; it's been a long time since wealthy travellers on the Grand Tour were the only ones able to pick up some remnant of classical statuary to decorate the family pad.

The difference nowadays is that the humbler shoptions in modern materials that mimic expensive able from the comfort of the nearest armchair - and often for less than the price of a night on the town.

Happily, these copies are nearly always less obvious than reproductions of famous paintings; the original of the head of Buddha, for instance, belongs to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, but will not draw cries of recognition in the way a Monet copy would. However, if you do feel your statue is a little too obviously new, you can always age it. There are plenty of home decoration books with detailed instructions on all kinds of antiquing effects, so you



I Head of Buddha

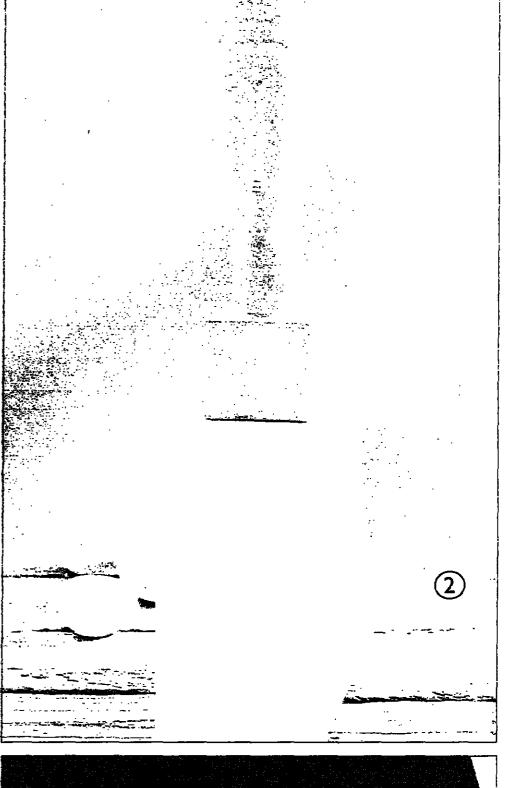
per has access to a range of high-quality reproduc- This reproduction of an original 5th-century Bud- plinth available separately for £24.95. dha head is part of the Victoria & Albert Musethe V&A shop, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL sculpture on display in the British Museum in Lon-(0171-938 8434), and from John Lewis. House of don, the torso of a reclining man is thought to be

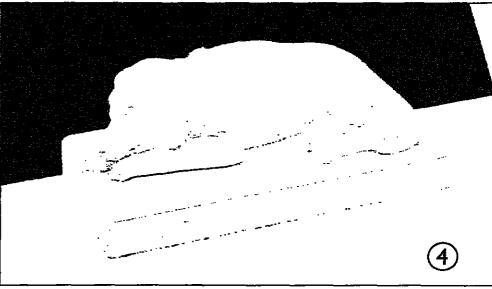
2 Modigliani head

Modigliani between 1910 and 1915. Made of reshouldn't have much trouble finding one that suits you. their 24-hour catalogue and order line 01993 (0181-564 7720).

770444, stock no 21387, £115 plus £2.95 p&p; white

limestone finish, it is 15 inches tall. Available from Cast from a first or second century AD Roman Fraser and other leading department stores counthat of Herakles. Made of plaster with a protective finish (C61080) or in a patinated "antiqued" version (C66180), 12 inches long. Available to order from British Museum Customer Services de-Reproduction of one of a series of heads carved by partment, 0171-323 1234; allow eight weeks for 4 Arlington dog delivery, £120 and £140 (antiqued). Limited cluding plinth). By mail-order from Art Room on London WC1 and Terminal 4, Heathrow airport





ter Sir Bruce Chichester in the late 18th century. 790800, stock no 49500, £16.99 plus £3.50 p&p.

Made of high-density plaster, hand-finished, with Taken from a marble statue at Arlington, Cheshire, a smoky brown wash. Also in black from NT town constituted stone, it is just under 12 inches tall (ex- stocks at the museum shops at Great Russell St, now owned by the National Trust, thought to be of shops only. Eight inches long. Available from the a terrier that pined away after the death of its mas- National Trust mail-order department on 01225

INDEPENDENT

WIN a fabulous weekend break at Ockenden Manor in West Sussex



Take part in our unique competition and you could be enjoying a luxurious and revitalising weekend break at Ockenden Mahor, a beautiful Elizabethan manor in Cuckfield, a charming linder village with views Take part in our unique Tudor village, with views over the South Downs.

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Your prize would include two nights luxury accommodation for two in a superior double/twin room, full English breakfasts, candlelit breakfasts, candlelit dinners in the awardwinning restaurant plus liqueurs with coffee and chocolates as you retire.

The prize must be taken by 31/10/98.

To enter this competition simply dial the number below answer the following question on line and leave: your name, address and contact

the Name infamous Tudor King who was renowned for transforming the English church?

0930 563 564

Ockenden Manor is offering Independent readers a special rate of £85 per person, per night which includes known accommodation, full English breakfast and dinner in the restaurant with complimentary chocolates and liqueurs. This offer is based on two sharing. a double/twin room for a minimum doublefrom room for a manual two night stay. Valid until 3016198, subject to availability. To book call Ockenden Manor hotel on 01444 416111, mentioning The Independent reader offer.

To have and to hold

Gina Cowen talks to Joanna Still about her path to the potters' wheel and the forms it has taken

about as fine as the taking of tea can be: large warm kitchen set against a cold Easter weekend. the Aga surrounded by a wall of postcards like a mini-museum; delicious home-made lemon cake sitting plump upon a hand-made Still plate, glowing with rich blues, greens, terracottas, golds; tea poured from an ochre-green, salt-glazed pot (an early work of hers). Out at the back through a

steeply rising garden is the studio in a converted stable. There's a workspace below with wheel, kiln, clay, paints, glazes; and a showroom above. Your eye is immediately caught by a large and attended evening classes in perfect jug - a model of pulchritude and practicality. On the wall is a huge poster from the recent exhibition London's Hayward Gallery, "Objects of De- Harrow School of Art (whose sire". It shows Picasso's Pitcher with apples (1919) - one of the apples sitting on a magnificent bold-spouted jug. A strong feature of Still's jugs is their unashamed spouts, making them ever thrown. 'Actually, it broke not only objects of desire but ob- in my bicycle basket and I had jects of good function. Not here to stick it together." None the the kind of jug that dribbles its less she was accepted and comcontents anywhere but into the required container.

Not surprisingly her first love was shape (she is also

Harrisson). "When I started I did not paint at all, I was much more interested in form." Herself quite impressive in form, tall and striking with strong expressive hands, Still started what has now been a 20-year voyage in ceramics having explored several other forms of work - linguist, secretary, fisherwoman, even highly success-Afternoon tea in Wiltshire at the home of potter Joanna Still is ful restaurateur in Alaska. It was while working back in London at the Royal Institute of In-



pottery at the Addington Institute and suddenly "just knew that this was what I wanted to do". She decided to apply to Studio Pottery course had such tutors as Michael Casson, Walter Keeler, Richard Slee and Mo Jupp). For the interview, she took the first pot she had dust red. pleted a two-year course before

Wiltshire, In the early years Still pro- is a similarity in the luminous

married to the sculptor Tim duced functional salt-glazed designs of von Etzdorf's fabrics ware, the form is never obscured plates, milk jugs and water jugs English pottery. Now at her present studio in the Wiltshire village of Hindon, Still has clay. In her emmently functional Joanna Still's dinner plates, side Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6ED gradually developed a more decorative approach, combining a growing interest in painting with that of form. A strong influence has been Minoan ware from Crete, with its bold vitality and flowing designs.

There's a relationship between the throwing of a pot and the painting, in terms of the time and energy spent on it," she says. "You shape the form out of the clay in minutes on the wheel, it rises up almost in a single movement. The painting should be free flowing in the same way: formed swiftly with fluid strokes as energetic and spontaneous as the throwing." Still now works in red earth-

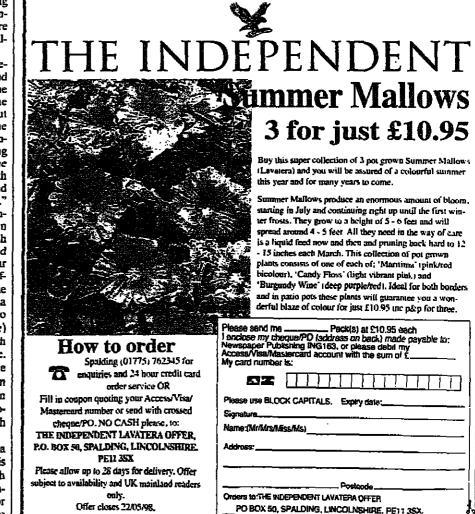
enware clay which is dipped in a cream slip then painted with oxides (and sometimes etched back through to the base colour in a technique known as "sgraffito"). After the first firing the colours are soft pastels. Then a final glaze (the kiln beating to over 1000 degrees centigrade) brings the colours into the rich hues of earth, sun, sky, sea, fire. Her decorations and motifs are inspired by nature: willow slim leaves brown on green, green on pale gold, waves of blue, a motif of falling feathers doned with

A close friend is Georgina von Etzdorf whose workshop is just down the road and with whom Still has travelled to Insetting up a studio at Ansty in dia over the last four years for research and inspiration. There

eve for colour and line, though to be used, not just admired. Still's fabric is, of course, solid

Rog In England 1908967 Newspaper Publishing plc.

stone ware, with forms inspired and those Still paints on her ce- by the design it wears. It is al- stan at around £15 and go up to by the sturdy shapes of early ramics. Both have an unerring ways clear that these are objects £100. For commissions and stockists call 01747 820478; Joanna Still, 4 Beckford Cottages, Hindon,



Newbury

2.00 GRUNDON RED.

2.00 Top Jem (nb)

3.00 Soviet Bureau

2.30 Delilah

HYPERION

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for \$1 to firm on straight course epid-finance course. ADMISSION: Members £17; Tattersalls £10. Silver Ring £4 (OAPs half proct) Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all endosures. CAR PARK: Southmead £2; Picroc area £4, remainder free. all endosures. CAR PARK: Southmead £2; Picroc area £4, remainder free. all endosures. Dumlop 18-155 (16%), P. Cole 21-193 (115%) J. Dumlop 18-155 (16%), R. Hannon 17-361 (47%), B. Hills 41-62 (86%), P. Cole 21-193 (115%) J. Dumlop 18-155 (16%), R. Hannon 17-361 (47%), P. At Eddery 26-244 (17%), T. Ultim 31-246 (125%), Pat Eddery 26-244 (17%), M. Hills 20-151 (11%), W. Ryan 14-36 (16.3%), R. Hills 41-04 (19.5%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: St. Lawrence (200).

2-35-3 VOLA VIA (ISAN [19] (I) IC 14 Sharif I Bacing 99 of 3... means tweet 9 of rel. can green date. Iconged cap region 2-35-4 TOP JEM (18) (I) (Alcreot Park Studi M Ryan 4-9 7 P McCabe (I) 15 78 boge purple 32; bage steries, purple stars, beige cap, purple star 593-3 POLAR CHAMP (9) (II) IF A L Chu) S Woods 5-9 5... ... Part Eddery 8 87 (ANN or example of the start of t

desistic, white hoop, entities and cap 9 03-603 PREMIER GENERATION (9) (CD) Mrs W A Cram) D Arbuttmot 5.9 1 - R Cochrane 16 79

emerald green, royal blue steeves, white cap, emerald green spots 1 52-21 - RUTLAND CHANTRY (180) (D) The Queen) Lid Huntargaton 4.8 10 19 R Swindburn 18 91

19 declared - 19

Amongst the fillest in the field PREMIER GENERATION can take the with Ray Coohrane a good booking Clark Arbuthnots runner, placed over hardes at Huntingdon in Janu-ary and on this track the following months was better less than a length by Protocol (win-ner of Doncasters opering 3) number appreciates handcab) at Leicester one days ago with Golden Ace (only 10 better) two and a half lengths back in third. Rutland Chantry, a four-year-old with this mileage on the clock struct form with a super-game effort at Ponteleract (good to solf) in October on his final outing and will pose a threat if fit enough and able to cope with heavy ground.

GRUNDON RECYCLE HANDICAP (CLASS D)

INSPECTION: 7am
GOING: Heavy STALLS: Straight - stands side; round - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 51 to 1m on straight course
all afficiant outside.

4.00 Hoh Chi Min

4.30 Magic Monday

5.00 Evening World 5.30 Shape Shifter

01405F FINGLETONIAN (7) (CDI (8F) (Mrs H Mactoggari) 9 Mactaggari 9 11 3 _______ 8 Storey purple, grean cross beits and sleeves, quantered cop -2022 NOON DEVIL (35) (8F) (Sr Coin Southgale) M Campon 8 11 3 ______ 8 Powell 3.25 SAMSUNG SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE C4 (LTD H'CAP) (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) £25,000 2m FF-6F4 LARGE ACTION (77) (D) (8 T Sewart-Brown) O Sterecod to 11 7. J A McCartby royal blue, pank epaulets, pirit cap
36553 KERAWI (14) (D) (M Archer & Mss J Broadhurst N Twiston-Davies 5 11 6... C Lisewithin byth Disa, mancor chevron, halved steeres, light bise & manon quartered cap 24031 BLOWING WHAD (FR) (20) (D) & Albeit M Pos 5 11 5 R Durmoody dank bise, yellow cross betts, coller & cutts, striped cap 65/246 PADRE MIO (140) (D) (Lady Light Weber) C Broks to 10 5 R Bradley

4 66/246 PADRE MIO (140) (D) (Lany Lony Webber) C Brooks to 10 5

— A declared —
4 declared —
4 declared —
5 FTING: 1-2 Stowing Wind, 7-2 Kerewi, 8-1 Large Action, 14-1 Padre Mio
997 Shadow Leeder 6 10 5 J Cetome eves is (G Egertun) in ran
FORM GILDE

BLOWING WIND runs off an official handicap mark of 146 after winning the Impensi Cup
(Sandown) off 130 and then the County Hurdle off 137. So he is no good thing despite
the disappointing tumout, but he must be a bit tasty to win two good handicaps Bue that
with only four days in between the has run only five trings for Martin Pipe and seems to
be improving at a rate of knots, but just how much a victory here will left us a open to
debate. Having said that, Large Action and Kerawi are not to be trifled with if they run
to their best, but Large Action gives the impression of being a lading force despite a fair
fourth to Mistinguent over the two miss five fundings of the Cleave Hurdle at Cheletridian
in January He left at home before the Bula Hurdle and may be having back trouble. Kerawi, fourth to Protwell in the Arthree Hurdle, probactly had his stamins trated there. He
had done well previously – second in the Tote Gold Trophy and fifth in the Champion Hurdie – and could be a tough run to crack. The hope is that Padre Mio sets a decent gallop because there may be a false pace otherwise.

Salection: BLOWING WIND 4.05 STAKIS SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL (HAND-ICAP CHASE) (CLASS A) £65,000 4m 1f

green, pink cross betts 34F251 LORD OF THE WEST (21) (Anne Duchess of Wastronster) J.J. O'Neil 9 10 0 R McGrath (5) 34728 LORD OF THE WEST (21) (AMEDIA STORY) J CONE 9 10 O H MECHANIC (3) VIOLEN MECHANIC (3) VIOLEN

- 18 declared - Minimum weight: 10st True handicap weight: Santée 8 Kaméaze 9st 13to, Stombacker & Baronel 9st 11to, Brans High and High Brans High and High Brans High Brans High Brans High State 9st 10to, Cholsty 8st 9to, Cogn Lane 8st 8to, Overflowing River 7st 11to, Chi 9o Handy 7st 6to, BETTING: 61 Stombacker, Distribution, Don Samoural, 8-1 Kamiliaze, 9-1 Baronel, Samles, 10-1 Europe, Naththen Lad, Ottowa, 12-1 Behmort King, 14-1 Lord Of The West, 16-1 Major Bell, 25-1 Cholsty, Idiot's Lady, Wistey Wonder, 33-1 others
1997: Behmort King 9 1t 10 A F McCoy 16-1 (P Nathols) 17 ran

FORM GUIDE

Delilish showed much improved form when equipped with a visor last term and was a time-length winner over Snow Princess in the Princess Royal Stakes at Ascot (heavy) in October on her penutismate run, having starmed home by eight lengths in a fork maden in September. She wound up with a ten-length lith to Tapal in a Group One in Italy. However, if he can handle the heavy, this looks booked for THE FLY, who ran lifthin in the Derby despite failing to get a clear run and thrift in the St Leger. Barry Hills' grey was desperately unlistly at Doncaster times weeks ago, finding trouble in running but going clear close home to defeat Posedon a couple of lengths strictly on ment only to lose the race in the stewards room for hampering third-placed Sacho (who finished a short-head away thrift. The Fly's only a pound worse in with Sacho who will be lucky to get anywhere near as close to him this time two flush Luis won at Catterck and Haydook last year but he best effort came in detect when that behind Rappoute and subsequent Arc victor Pentre Celebre in the Phy. Net at Longchamp on his penultimate appearance. Posidonas comes form a yard with a good tract record.

Selection: THE FLY

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GREENHAM STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 3YO 7f (straight)

white, red sach, led and white simped cap.

\$311- MERLIN'S RING (183) (D) Mrs = Purmer & Partners I Baking 9 0..._ O Pesiler 5 110

3.30 LADBROKES SPRING CUP HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 1m (round) £18,644 BBCI

12-1 Rainweitzh, 14-1 others 1997 Winterwater Affas 4 B 9 O Pasker 20-1 (M Staute) drawn (13) 13 ran FORM GUIDE

Draw a line under Major Bell and the rest are out of the handicap, but KAMIKAZE is only a pound wrong and has a fine chance if he jurges at his best. The Midlands Naconst numer-up has the necessary stamine, but his jurning can be carefest an occasions and he clouted the borth from home at Ultimater when the only denger to Mass Orchastra, who was getting 30th with his rider's claim included. Kamikaze cut not finish for shead of the bourth Dom Samoural, who was conceding another 10th, but Don Samoural may have had one hear race too many, even though he gives the impression of being as game as they come. Kamikaze had the race won when unsetting hippert Waktey at the second last fence at that venue the time before and he gitted the prize to Ottowa, with Call it a Day, who was placed in the trish National, taking second place. Kamikaze had the pres and showed with that first Ultimater run that a slog through testing ground holds no temers. So, even if it rains, he should have a chance of begin the confirmed modern Citiows. Brave Highlander was in the process of non-ring a great race when holing his noter at the Canal Turn in the National and its better weighted here. He has had problems, but was highly rated as a novice and seems to be an good tran. Samilee was second to Bellimont King in this a year ago and will be in the shake-up if his Grand National third in the mud has not left a mark, while Stormbracker looks the right type for this race but probably needs the ground to rice with a degree of bounce. Natithen Lad has had mitted fortunes since beating Mr Mudigan eight predictions the Bellimont in the Had Sun Alliance Chase Europe and Beronet are decent stayers and stayit predictions for Beronet, even though he can be a hard ride. He was find in the lists year.

4.40 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m 38322 OR ROYAL (PR) (15) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pice 7 12 0..... TOTAL THE LITTLE WAS A CHARACTER OF THE PARTY OF THE CASE. A DESIRED OF STORES CHARACTER OF THE CASE, GREEN SPORTS TO THE CASE, GREEN SPORTS TO THE CASE, GREEN SPORTS TO THE CASE, GREEN SPORTS THE CORRESPONDED TO THE CASE, GREEN SPORTS THE CASE OF THE CASE O

Minimum weight: 10st. The handican weight. Polineal Tower Set 8th, Anabranch Set 6th.
96TTINCS 3-1 Or Royal, 7-2 Minimale Forte, 9-2 Oom The Fell, 5-1 Rying Instruction, 11-2 Like
Warthe, 7-1 Combrian Challenge, 10-1 Anabranch, 33-1 Political Tower
1997: Monyman 7 to 2 N Williamson 11-2 (M Hammond) 9 ran
FORM GUIDE

OCWIN THE FELL is a handialy weighted from runner on a course which will suit, He gave
Cumbrian Challenge a bright at Doncester in tase Jenuary and preceded that with a very
decent effort bettind Viking Flagship as Wetherby. Lake Kartha will do well to follow up
yesterday's cosy with here, while Monantie Forte may have enough weight. Anabranch
is progressive, but the 12st may just halt Or Royal after some competitive races. Flying
Instructor looks more of a threat than the 11-year-old Political Tower and Rivshed shead
of Lake Kartha when paped by Jeffell at Ambre.

Selection: OOWN THE FELL

5.10 LINCOLN MILD CIGARS OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV I) £4,500 added 2m

= 14 declared = EETTING: 7-2 Noosly Rollaced, 5-1 Maritet Scen, 11-2 Crazy Horse, 6-1 All Gong, 7-1 Ashley Muck, 8-1 Bit O Magic, 10-1 Alhatel, 12-1 others 1997, Kings Measure4 x0 9 E Caleghan (3) 25-1 (J Jafferson) 20 ran.

5.40 LINCOLN MILD CIGARS OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV II) £4,500 added 2m H) (DIV II) \$4,500 added 2m

0-5 JET SPECIALS (63) (D) (Let Stationery Co) Mrs J Priman 5 h m ... Mr S Durack (3)

1 PARLANCA BAY (42) (D) (Mrs. L.) Toursend) Mrs A Swinterix 6 m m ... Mr C Villians

3 CHEF RED NOSE (31) (8F) Li D'Gymran) N Twiston-Darlets 5 m 4 ... C Liversityn

HONOUR BRIGHT (R Opden) M Todrutter 5 m 4 ... P. Carberry

NO CLIARTER (Mrs C A Waters IK Bailey 5 m 4 ... N Winterness

0 OVER THE SOLWAY (67) (Libra Robson) L. Lungo 5 m 4 ... N Winterness

1 PADARA (99) (Bernerd Hafterway) D Nodrotison 6 m 4 ... A Maguier

TOGGI DANCER (NZ) (Ashieybarrk Intestments Lib) G Richards 5 m 4 ... A Dobbin

TONOCO (Deut Hammingsi Mrs S Smith 5 m 4 ... Revelley 5 m 4 ... P Nivere

NEGHT THERAPY (Samphtons States Lib) A Bailey 5 m 5 m 7 ... Johnson

9-5 SME'S ALL HEART (145) (D Griffiths) C Parlet 5 m 3 ... T Johnson

9-5 SME'S ALL HEART (145) (D Griffiths) C Parlet 7 m 12 B Storry

1 CAMP HRLL (26) (G J Johnston) Halderne 4 m 12 A S Smith

1-14 declared -...

- 14 declared -BETTING: 9-2 No Owarier, Pedana, 11-2 Jet Speciats, Parlanca Bay, Chief Red Nose, 10-1 Hose Bright, Toggil Dancer, 14-1 others 1997. Decoupage 5 11 4 N Williamson 3-1 fav (C Egerlon) 20 ran

> - 10 operation - 16 o Hawksley Hill 4 9 6 J Fortune 5-1 tay (Mrs J Ramsden) drawn (17) 19 ran

red, while braces, checked sleaves and cap - 15 declared -

Lincoln rurners have a good record in this and RIGHT WING, 4th better in with Hunters Of Brora (disqualified after winning this a year ago having run unplaced in the Lincoln) then when third of 23 to her at Doncaster after leading briefly at the furtong marker, can turn the form around on this much more testing surface. Right Wing looked useful lest year with two soft-ground writs for Dick Hern. Kenthemara Star, a stablemate of Right Wing, might well pose the biggest threat. He also ikes give in the ground and won twice last term – at Lecester a year ago and at Portlettact in September. However, Right Wing should have a fitness advantage over Kennamara Star, who has been oif the track since an unplaced Ayr run behind Solar Storm 210 days ago. Therhea went in at Nothingham and York (soft) last term and is sure to be sharper for his opening tourth of 20 to five-back because Cleanbeaus at Laurence on his when the Solar Storm 210 the Solar Storm 21 length scorer Sleepless at Leicester on his return.

4.00 DUBAI DUTY FREE FRED DARLING STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 3YO fillies 7f 64yds (round) SETTING: 5-2 Crazee Mental, 11-4 Musicel Teist, 9-2 Hoh Chi Min. 5-1 Plestirling, 7-1 Dec

4.30 NETHERAVON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2YO filles 5f 34yds £3,525

Lacty, 10-1 Wenda, 25-1 Only in Dreams

5.00 COMPTON STAKES (CLASS B) £12,250 added 3YO 1m 2f

.- 3 declared -BETTING: 4-6 Evening World, 2-1 Casino Captive, 5-1 Clapham Common

5.30 BURGHCLERE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m (straight) Penalty Value £3,980 Jadded 3YO 1m (straight) Penalty Value £3,980

5- BALLYKISSAMN (177) (P De Weck) D French Davis 9 0. S Drowns 3

CADRILAC JUKEBOX (USA) (170) (F Berstock) J Hills 9 0. MI Hills 10

90- CLASSIC IMPACT (198) (Mrs BY Sangster) P Crespbel-Hoam 9 0. R Hawkin (3) 7

6- COLD FRONT (172) (G Brog) J Hills 9 0. A Clark 9

GATELRASHER (J M Greetham) J Farstrave 9 0. WR Swinburn 4

KING OF MOMPIUM (Three Bears Racing) B Meeten 9 0. R Swinburn 4

43 MANSA MUSA (5) (Sutrey Leminotops Lin) M Creamon 9 0. Pat Eddary 6

ORMELE (Mrs K Dovie; P Creaped-Hyam 9 0. J Freid 12

0- SHAPE SHIFTER (253) (G Howard-Sprit) R Hamich 9 0. R Hugdes 2

9- SUN DANCER (275) (E Smith N Smith 9 0. J Brankill 8

BIG BUYER (USA) (R F Scully) I Balding 8 9. SWINburnth 5

BRIDES ANSWER (Mr. J Keigen) M Creamon 8 9. A Macten 7

50- SILCA KEY SERVICE (242) (RF) (Matrice Racing) M Charmon 8 9. T Quien 1

9- SULYER SSA (USA) (256) (F Melting) I Balding 8 9. Martin Dever 14 — 14 declared —
BETTING: 4-1 Shape Shifter, 5-1 Omarile, 7-1 Mensa Massa, Elg Buyer, Silver Sea, 8-1 Silce Key
Service, 10-1 Cold Front, King Of Montauit, 14-1 others

Punters' Guide

NEWBURY -LOG: TOP GEM has plenty of stamina and should be staying on at . the finish. Pat Eddery had the choice of Polar Champ and Fairy King and it could be significant that he has opted for the former.

2.36: DELILAH won the Princess Royal Stakes when the turf was heavy at Ascot in October. This filly can be a madam (she's a tailswisher) but Olivier Peslier seems to get the best out of her.

3.00: Peter Chapple-Hyam said of Victory Note last week that "he handles any going except really soft. which might pull the bottom out of him. In today's conditions perhaps SOVIET BUREAU will have the edge on today's rivals.

3.30: Hunters Of Brora proved he is in good heart with a win over a mile at Doncaster three weeks ago. He was also first past the post in this event a year ago, only to be harshly disqualified. Just over four lengths back in fourth place that day was SAIFAN, who is now 12th better off. With Kieren Fallon in the saddle this nine-year-old can show he is no back number.

2.25: Swanbister renews rivalry with his Unoxeter conqueror FREDDIE MUCK. Len Lungo's charge is olb better off for that three-length, good-ground beating, but needs softish going to show his best. If today's turf is on the fast side. Freddie Muck should maintain superiority. The recent Unoxeter 2m 5f winner Carlingford Gale en-ters the reckoning if having the stamina for this extra distance.

2.55: Edelweis Du Moulin performed with a lot of credit when a 41/-length fourth to Champleve in the Arkie Trophy at Cheltenham.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS That gruelling conjest may have

taken its toll however succes DEVIL is a progressive steeple chaser who acts well on a sound surface. His latest outling - defeat at Sandown - can be ignored as the failed to handle that sight-haraical track.

3.25 Large Action has yet to repair the top-class ability he was able to display three years ago. BLOWING WIND has looked classy this soring when defivering a interchallenge of ter being covered up in hig fields rus at a strong pace. Kerawi is tough and would benefit if, due to a slow early pace, this developed into a sprint in the classing stages.

4.05: The going has come right for STORMTRACKER, who was pulled out of Aintree's National because of the testing conditions. He is also a fresh horse, uplike those who had to sleg round Aintree just a fortnight ago. Mark Richards's mount should have too much pace for mudlovers such as Ottowa. Dom Samourai and Nahthen Lad. Another who likes soft noing r. Brave Righlander, but so well was this one travelling on the heels of the leaders at Aintree - until heing hampered and unscaring his rider four fences from home - that he still rates a big threat today. Sam-lee, the Aintree third, handles tast going as well as soft, but it remains to be seen if he has recovered from his exertions.

 \Box 4.40: LAKE KARIBA sauntered home here yesterday and, if turning out again, looks unopposable.

			<u></u> -		=		==	==	and the	
10-year-tale	. On		Α	Sco	itti	sh	Na	tio	nal	
iv-year-care	- 011	~~					النظر			
	1988	89	90	91	92	93_	94	95	96	97
Fate of the favourites:	6	В,	P	2	P	ŭ	23.P	45.P	_4_	_Ų_
Winner's place in bettin	g: 3	2	0	0	0	3	0	_0_	_0_	a_
Starting-prices:	9-1	4-1	25-1	40-1	9-1	6-1	to-	16-1	20-1	16-1
Waning weights:	104	100	100	100	110	1110	100	1012	10	:110
Winner's age:	9	11	9	2	7	9	6.	12	11	9_
Profit or loss to £1 stak	e: Favo	turke	3-E1	100 E	BCOT	d Fa	vourite	s -£50	<u> </u>	
Percentage of without	placed	181, 2	2nd o	3rd-l	n last	THE	50°			
Shortest-priced winners: Rot-A-Jonit (1989) 4-1										
Longest-priced winners: Kilkine Abbey (1991) 40-1										
Top trainers: N Twiston-										
Top jockeys: No jockey	185 WO	n this	race 1	more t	han o	uce p	the p	ast 10 y	HEAD'S	

First show Ayr 4.05 Ayr 2.25 .C H L Stormbacker 51 61 7-1 6-1 2-2 74 61 <u>61 61 51</u> Lord Footune 11-2 8-1 8-1 15-2 6-1 Oorn Semousal 8-1 7-1 7-1 13-2 13-2 7-1 7-1 8-1 6-1 8-1 Brave Highlander 9-1 9-1 7-1 5-3 8-1 Freddie Muck 10-7 10-1 8-7 10-1 9-1 Kamaligaza 7-: 9-1 E-1 3-1 3-1 punds Pyne 31 10-1 10-1 10-1 9-1 3-1 10-1 10-1 9-1 10-1 Carlingford Galo 10-1 8-1 10-1 12-1 12-1 9-1 9-1 9-1 8-1 10-1 arens 141 €1 €1 €1 111 12-1 13-1 13-1 13-1 13-1 13-1 und Hank 12-1 14-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 Nahmen Lad 10-1 12-1 11-1 71 7 3-1 Mountain Path 18-1 14-1 16-1 14-1 14-1 Baronat 141 51 51 10; 91 Motoratop 20-1 12-1 13-1 14-1 20-1 Behacit King 14-1 10-1 12-1 11-1 Chipped Out 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 Major Belt 14-1 15-1 20-1 20-1 15-1 Cook HEE 14-1 15-1 20-1 15-1 15-1 Lord Of The West 14-1 16-1 14-1 20-1 20-1 Feels Like Gold 20-1 20-1 20-1 18-1 20-1 identalizer Z3-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 Jet Files 20-1 B-1 B-1 B-1 B-1 Share Options 14-1 15-1 20-1 14-1 35-1 334 251 201 251 251 Chalety___ John Drumer 20-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 Cogul Lame 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 Lottery Ticket 25 1 25 1 33 1 25 1 33 1 Overficening Piner 50-1 66-1 66-1 66-1 Owens Ocest 33-1 33-1 20-1 33-1 33-1 Oh So Handy 100-1 150-1 150-1 150-1 150-1 Each way a quarter the cottle, places 1, 2, 3, 4 Sechway, a quaser the odes, places 1, 2, 1, 4 C Coral, H With Hill, L.Lachroles, S Series, T Total C'Coral, H With HS, L. Lachaches, S. Stanley, T. Total

Ау	r 2.55	ŀ .	
lorse	C		
dalwais Du Moulin	64	13-8	54
loh Wanter	†1-4	<u> 7-4</u>	3-1
engess Moor	92	11-2	. 5-1-
loon Desi	7-1	8-1	10-1
hespaty	14-1	9-1	10-1
orestal	14-1	10-1	12-1
gletonian	20-1	14-1	16-)
aan's Your Man	E -1	<u>25-1</u>	28-1
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Bobby Grant Each way a lith f	40-1	50-1	50-1

				East Holy profit to Good preces 7, 2, 3	
Ne		ry 3.	30	<u> </u>	Test The Water 2-1 14-1 14-1 14-1
Horse		. א	_. _	7	Mint B Sultan 14-1 10-7 2-1 2-1
Right Wing	51		11-2	11-2	Mr Medica 14-1 16-7 18-1 14-
Hunters Of Bross	13-2	132	61	13-2	Bee's Ruby 29-1 20-1 18-1 20-
Kernemera Star	7-1	132	7-1	13-2	Particle House 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1
Rock Falcon	51	132	11-2	7-1	Salan 15-1 15-1 20-1 15-
The hea	8-1	<u>11-2</u>	· 17-2	B1	Gramy's Pet 2)-1 25-1 28-1 35-
Ben Guinn	11-1	10-1	9-1	81	Zing 50-1 50-1 50-1 50-1
Sweet Wilhelmins	141	14-1	14-1	12-1	Each way, a quarter the ouble, places 1, 2, 3

Results

Paperlaing

AYR 2.00: 1. KADOU NONANTAIS (J.A.Mo-2.00: 1. KADOU NONANTAIS (J A Mo-Carthy) 3-8 fair, 2. Premier Cru 7-1: 3. Justin Mac 7-4.5 rat. 1½, 1½, (O Sherwood, Upper Lamboum) Tote: \$2.70; £120, £280. DF: £4.70. CSF: £102. 2.30: 1. LAKE KARIBA (T J Murchy) 4-5 fair; 2. Welsh March 3-1: 3. Zabedi 7-2. 4 ran. 6. 6. (P Nichola, Shepton Mallet). Tote: £180. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.04. NR: Judicous Norman.

Norman, 3.00: 1, KIT SMAPTIE (N Wilemson) 14-1; 2. Shore Party 6-1; 3. Marthorough: 1-4, 9 ran, 2-1 fee Lord Of The Fiver Shit, 3¹/₂, 10. (D) Poster, Darlington). Tota: En.50; 1250, 1270, 1310, DF: 53350, CSF, 58003. 1200 11/1 STED DF: 53350 CSF, 50003. Tio: 52150. 3.30: 1. COLONEL IN CHIEF (P Carberry) 9-1; 2. Coration Johns 3-1 fav; 3. Mr Knibwit 9-2. 8 ran. 3/s. 4. (G Richards, Greystole) Tota: 5370 5270 540 5100 DF: 52520 CSF; 52900 Tricast; 510155. 4.00: 1. KINGS MEASURE J. Wyer) 11-4; 2. Zander 2-1 fav; 3. Rumaway Peta 6-1,5 ran. 2, 10, U.M. Jefferson, Malton, Tota: 2360; 2190, 2130 DF: 2360, CSF: £752, NR: Antro-

EISO, EISO DF: EISO, CSF: £752 NF: Antro-NR.

4.30: 1. JIGTIME (Mr M Bracthurne) evens tay; 2. Howeyman 5-1; 3. Tertan Tradewinds 9-1, 8 ran, 10, 1/2, (J Hughes, Galesties), Tote: £160; £160; £160; £160; £160; £280; CSF: £544, 5.00; 1. SKILLWISE (L Wyor) 10-1; 2. Vertidien 5-1; 3. Lord York 3-1 (ex. 8 ran, Hd. 3. (T Easterly, Matton), Tone: £1050; £180; £240; £150; £1510; CSF: £5251, Tonast £7031. Placepot: £11.50. Quadpot: £3.40. Place 6: £13.78. Place 5: £3.83.

THIRSK THIRSK

2.20: 1. THREE FOR A POUND (J Fortune) 13-2: 2. Finisterre 25-7; 3. Logal 1ssue 12-1; 4. Can't Remaraber 11-1. 18 ran.
9-2 fav Time O'Night (8th) 2:h. 3/h. (J Glover,
Worksop). Totar EASO: \$2.00. 19940. \$6.60,
\$2.50. DF: \$230.70. CSF: \$778.94. Tricast:
\$1.865.28 Tric: Not won.

2.50: 1. NIGHT OF GLASS (D Holand)
11-2: 2. David Rock 9-1: 3. Grev Kingdom 11-2; 2. Davis Rock 9-7; 3. Grey Kingdon 3-1 by 15 ran, 2/s, ½, Ú L Eyre, Threid Tok

28281 Trassic Stricks Trick 23340 NF Wheel Happened Wass.
3.20: 1. ELHAYQ (J Carroll) 9-4: 2. Bink Kaldoum 13-8 Ear; 3. Speaker's Chair 2-1 8 ran. 5: 2(J Dunlog, Arundel) Tote: 53:0; 51 4.50: 1. ISLAND RACE (D HATSON III-1; 2. Private Hand 7-2; 3. Nuclear Debate 5-2 17 ran. 8-4 by DI. 174, nr. (J Parstane New-markel, Tota: 5245; 55-4, 516; 52-50 DF 55180. CSF; 52503. Ther \$20.90. Place 6: £18497 Place 5: £3418.

2680; 2120, 2330, 2150 OF, 22901 OSF.

282.81 Tricast 217661 Trio: 23540 NFI

 Yesterday's meeting at Newbury and today's card at Stratford were abandoned due to waterlogging,

INDEPE		
RACING	SERV	ICES
0891	261	+
LIVE COMMEN	ARIES	TESUUS
AYR	971	981
NEWSURY	972	98.2
THIRSK	973	483
BANGOR (E)	.974 .	984
MOTABLE LOW (F)	975	. 985
0891 2	<u>619</u>	115 70
	is et Sout	ONKLL

Bangor HYPERION 2.10 Builder Boy 2.40 Merger Mania 3.10 Ambleside 3.45 Allow 4.15 Parsons Boy 4.45 High-

way Five 5.15 Warrlin © Lait-hand, uncluding course; run-in 325yds.
© Lait-hand, uncluding course; run-in 325yds.
© Course is Am St. of Wiretham near join of A525 and 85069 AD-MISSION: Paddoo- £00. Course £5 (u-159 free). CAR PARK: Free.
© LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 26-85 (000%). © Richards 15-80 (188%). D Nicholarm 15-80 (1985). B Nicholarm 15-80 (1985). GOING: Soft (Heavy in places) ■ LEADING TRAINERS: M PIPE 25-95 (3025%). G Hichards 15-80 (88%). D Nicholson 14-50 (28%). P Hobbs 8-27 (295%). © LEADING JOCKEYS: 6 Wynns 10-106 (94%). W Marston 9-52 (17.3%). Mr R Sevis 3-6 (50%). G Tormsy 3-17 (17.8%). ■ FAVOURITES: 175 wns from 456 races (38.4%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Tanseeq (visored, 22.5).

2.10 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f Section 1 Section 1 Section 1 Section 2 Sectio

__ S Wynno . _. P Henley (3)

The CENTRAL COMMITTEE (206) (BF) (RT 5 sangles) P Chapple-Hyam 3 8 to 1, Reld 14 80 are entered green spots. It is seried green spots. It is seried green spots have deeper at white cap good things. It is seried green spots where cap good things. It is seried from the cap good things. It is seried green spots where cap good things. It is seried from the cap good things. It is seried green spots where cap good things. It is seried from the cap good things. It is seried green spots of the cap good things. It is seried green spots of the cap good things. It is seried green spots of the cap good things. It is seried green spots of the cap good things. It is seried green spots of the cap good things. It is seried green gre

2.40 OVERTON OPEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 NASPE ANDERMAT (4) (CD) Placton 11 27 Mr J R Commad (7) 2 RUSD CHERKY POT (P21) (D) B Preces 10 120 Mr H Eptrymon (7) B 3 ST,1-U FARDROSS (16) P Emiss 12 12 0 Mr C Stockton (7) 4 1-Prif MERGER MANIA (24) S Fock 6 12 0 Mr D Mansel (7) 5 00-PP SIR-EILE (PG) D better 12 12 0 Mr N Kort (7) -5 declared
BETTING: 6-4 Andermatt, 2-1 Merger Mania, 3-1 Fardross, 8-1 Chaeky 12 20 Mr St. St. Sie

3.10 MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 2m 1f 110yds 1 -2.Lim AMSLESIDE (16) Mrs S.Wilders 7 to 6 S. Michell 6 10025 CENTAUR EXPRESS (9) (20) A 3 peetr 8 to 6 it Thorston 3 407542 DESERT CALIN (24) D McCan 9 to 0 S. Wyane 4 52044 HAWKFIELD (44) (8F) F Hobbs 3 to 0 Mr R Wisger (7)

a good trocking Card Arbuthrost number, placed over hurdes at Hurtingdon in January and on this track the following month was beaten less than a length by Protocol (winner of Doncaster's opening 27 -humber apprentices handcast) at Leicester mine days ago the Obordaster's opening 27 -humber apprentices handcast) at Leicester mine days ago the Cook with the mileage on the clock study form with a super-game effort at Ponteleract (good to solly in October on his final outring and will pose a threat if it enough and able to cope with heavy ground Selection: PREMIER GENERATION Selection: PREMIER GENERATION (ISS) (I) (I) (Paged Thromptod Wilhar 9.3). J Weaver 10 (IOS) (CLASS A) \$30,000 added 1m 4f \$20,400 PARTITIES (U) (I) (Paged Thromptod Wilhar 9.3). J Reid 9.97 Machine study and 3.45 LEX COMMERCIALS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m

4.15 MALPAS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 27.000 added 3m 110yds

470-2 BRAES OF MAR (15) (D) N Perdeson 8 2 4 July W McLemon (7) 9ETTING: 5-4 Brates Of Mar, 11-4 Cafferone, 4-1 Roskeen Bridge, 11-2 Affie, 20-1 Shear Ability, 25-1 Highway Pive 5.15 CROSS LANES HOTEL HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 1f

4.45 JANE MCALPINE MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 3m 110yds

and the mer

1 mg : 42 44. Li Water al. والمحارض والمحارضي

में के निर्मात सम्बद्ध करता. जन्म

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1.40

ed by Crazee Mental (4.00). were involved in the turf's ver- Group Three race on the deep sion of the retreat from Moscow going of Saint-Cloud.

this month. Samlee was the only finisher of the quartet in the DAVID LODER, one of Grand National, while the clever Britain's most promising young ones who surrendered when trainers, is poised to leave for they saw the task that lay ahead were Nahthen Lad, Brave High-France and become private trainer to 120 Godolphin two- lander and Choisty. These horsyear-olds at Evry racecourse, es do not necessarily fall into the bracket of fresh animals which Godolphin, an arm of usually win this race.

Godolphin

put Loder in Paris

south of Paris.

Sheikh Mohammed's opera-

tion, is in the latter stages of pur-

closed down by France-Galop

two years ago. The facilities and turf have been maintained

and are likely to be back in use

valuable member of our team

in future years," Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing

manager, said last night. "He will go there and we very much hope that his [Newmarket] staff

The juvenile batch will fur-

ther strengthen the Sheikh's

hand in Europe and augment

the 50 or so Said bin Suroor-

trained Godolphin animals,

mostly older horses, housed at

Newmarket It will also add

fuel to to the suggestion that the

Maktoums are becoming ter-

minally disenchanted with lev-

els of prize-money in Britain.

Crisford, though, denied that

Sheikh Mohammed's salvo at

speech and this latest develop-

ment were connected. "This is

said. "It's a different way of do-

ing things and the way we think

we can be more effective at the

sods today. While the National-

Hunt venue of Avr could do with

more moisture in the ground, the

Flat racing at Newbury, where

the going is almost stirrable, is

nam Stakes card can go anead,

and if Newbury rises from the

The Berkshire course will

struggling to stage sport.

Sod's law applies to Britain's

highest level of this game."

will go with him."

at the end of the autumn.

More plausible arguments can be made out for Kamikaze chasing the track that was and Dom Samourai, the two greys who are well matched on Midlands Grand National form. The latter may prevail now as he has less weight to transport.

The winner's identity though "David has got great finesse may be Stormtracker (next best with young horses and I'm sure RICHARD EDMONDSON he'll prove himself to be an in-

NAP: Monnaie Forte (Ayr 4.40) (Ayr 4.05)

4.05), who finished ahead of Samlee in the Eider Chase at Newcastle. His connections will be pleased they did not run in the National and it may be that the horse was not that brassed off with the decision either.

If the Grand National was barbarous then there is also a cruel streak about the Scottish Champion Hurdle, in which the extinguished talent of Large Action is required to give weight to the tigerish Kerawi and progressive Blowing Wind.

British pots in his Gimerack Large Action is running as though he needs his meals brought up to his room these the most suitable place and the -days and it should be that this two-year-old programme in is his parting shot. Kerawi (3.25) France is a very good one," he is the obvious selection. Edelweis Du Moulin (2.55)

may carry his black armband to victory for the Greystoke stable of Gordon Richards as long as his Arkle Chase exertions have not debilitated him, while there should be a nationalist success later in the card. James Adam's MONNAIE FORTE (nap 4.40) won over hurdles at Ascot last time, but was previously third Dettori to be the most talented in the Mildmay Of Flete at the rider alive, as convincingly as alstage a precautioinary inspec- Cheltenham Festival. He is cohol. Drink, coupled with a tion at 7am to see if the Green- agreeably weighted and a starvation and binge diet, finally

In Newbury's 2,000 Guineas 12 months ago. The great waters it will be fattened by the trial, the Greenham Stakes, the monolith of a career he had coninclusion of the Fred Darling undefeated protagonist is Soviet structed had fallen victim to the Stakes from yesterday's abandoned card. The 1,000 Guineas reckons to be the best horse that lifestyle. trial has slipped out of live has passed through her hands. transmission territory to 4pm. There are, however, others to after the years of doing things consider, notably Merlin's Ring recording of the race which (3.00). Ian Balding's colt was a considerable distance ahead of today's market rival La-Faah in enough, that I'd been working At Ayr, the Scottish Nation- the Acomb Stakes at York last al contains four horses who summer and has already won a

it too hard for too long and it "I knew I had to give it a rest.

umbilical cord to a dirty past.

tame Swinburn, said by Frankie

No jockey has managed to

"Something had to change

the way I had been," he said this

week. "I'd hit a brick wall. The

body said that enough was

like old times for Walter Swin- I was very comfortable. It was Doubles have been the currency ever made.

for the 36-year-old jockey for a "Race-riding is hard physilong time, both in and out of cally and, at the end of the day, there are no short cuts. That's work, but the only receptacles that now interest the Choirboy what I had to learn and why I'd are not the goblets and tankards got into the bad habits I did." After a near year-long sabof a drinking house, but rather batical Swinburn has returned the trophies of the racecourse. a more relaxed figure. His Wally is back and he has cut the

weight no longer fluctuates and he says booze will not pass his lips until the season ends. It is a pledge that will be carefully monitored by the newshounds in Newmarket. There are plenty of folk

1981 Derby. And when Wally celebrated it was rarely by going home to complete an Airfix kit.

You can never buy your way out of all the bad times, however, and Swinburn's have merely been dormant before The original decision to stop for being activated violently by the a while was a hard one, but once onset of the mid-1990s.

IT WAS, thankfully, only partly I made it and took a step back. The jockey who shot to fame on Shergar burn at Newmarket this week one of the best decisions I've has reformed a lifestyle that was out of control. Richard Edmondson reports

Winning is Swinburn's unbroken habit

The first eruption came in February of 1996, when Liffey River hurled him through the rails and almost into the next life at Sha Tin race-track in Hong Kong. Swinburn suffered a collarbone and shoulder, a crushed chest and broken ribs. This medley of injuries is said to be a reason for some curious behaviour that followed.

In January of last year, he has had an overly privileged up- walk from Cork to Dublin and bringing as the son of the Irish raised £60,000 for charity. champion jockey, Wally snr. Then, just days later, he raised Bureau, whom Gay Kelleway creeping tvy of a ruinous He became an immediately a stink in Newmarket High wealthy man aged 19 when a Street's Il Piccolo Mondo horse called Shergar carried him restaurant by attacking the effortlessly past the post in the owner. Police arrived to find the winner of eight British Classics and many of the world's most prestigious prizes rolling around on the pavement, the victim of a competition with red

> At a subsequent court hearing, Swinburn's protracted eating disorders were made

public. It was also said that a low tolerance to alcohol could have

been caused by his accident in

Hong Kong. Swinburn promptly scratched himself from the weighing-room brain contusion, breaks to a roster and there were plenty who said he would never return. That he has, gives hope to those who wish to see the outstanding ability within the jockey sucand more destructive forces that drummed into me that I had to fitter at this Craven meeting

ing. "I let my body recover first eat." and then I brought my weight down gradually," he said. "I got Genesis Green Stud, Swinburn very heavy, up to 11 stones, but it did me good just to forget for 20 minutes. He walks a lot about weight for a little while. and, three times a week, he does going." I was actually quite podgy. "I've been on this diet since

diet that is designed for good Derby hope Greek Dance to had mentioned a glossy coat as conducted as fluent and intelli- attached him to racing's rockwell you might have thought he gent a conference as the face for 20 years now has one

During his sabbatical, will once again become Swinburn went to Kentucky commonplace. He certainly has and saw Steve Cauthen, who understands these things. Champagne had once become considerations. almost as important to the American's body as oxygen

when he rode in Britain. Swinburn started riding out gain in Dubai in the winter and found to his great relief that the instinctive crackle between his palms and the reins was still

The jockey now follows a refuelling programme designed to feed muscle to burn fat. "It Swinburn's recuperation "I've been pleasantly surprised the last 10 years. began by doing precisely noth- about how much I actually can

roars away on a rowing machine circuits in the gym. If he can keep this up, days like Tuesday, the middle of July last year, a when he adroitly partnered the

not needed to punish himself back here for financial

Swinburn is convinced, but recognises that others will need longer to make up their minds. "I'm very pleased to be back doing what I do best, ' he said. "I love riding and I'm just doing this for that simple pleasure. It's not about chasing glory days. I love riding and it's just nice to get to a racecourse feeling fit and healthy.

"I can only get stronger, but cessfully conquer the darker might sound strange, but they let's just say that I was probably

> "I fully understand that rides are not going to come flooding Each morning at his family's my way and people are going to want to see the evidence of what I'm saying, but I'm very comfortable with the way things are

For Walter Robert Swinburn, though, there will undoubtedly be tough times ahead and if he falls again that vitality and good health." If he victory at Newmarket and then might be it. The rope that has

Kamikaze has the right National pilot

The former National Hunt jockey Steve Smith Eccles (right) gives a runner-by runner analysis of today's Scottish Grand National.



due to injury and carries top Baronet: Useful on his day weight. He won this last year but a sketchy jumper. but has not reproduced that Brave Highlander: Going kind of form this season. Ottowa: Stays well and jumps his rider at the Canal Turn cleanly. Connections will be second time round at Ainpraying for soft ground: Endipe: Threatens to win a may also be feeling the efhig race but never quite fects of that marathon. does. Has a mind of his own.

keeps pushing, he keeps running. My only fear is that he has had a few hard races. Nahthen Lad: Fell in the Grand National but normally jumps well. Has not been showing his form of old. Major Bell: Genuine type who finished a creditable get the trip. second to Davy Blake at Kelso last time. Could figure. Samlee: An excellent third to Earth Summit at Aintree but I believe his exertions in

the National will have taken the edge off him. Kamikaze: Well named, judging by the way he attacks his fences. When he does put in a clear round, he is a quality horse, and has every chance if he stands up. Stormtracker: Needs a fast

Belmont King: Forced to running a big race if condisidestep the Grand National tions are in his favour.

well in fifth when unseating tree. Has each-way claims but Idiot's Lady: Genuine mare, Done Samourai: Tough as but tends to run in snatches. old boots - while the jockey Lord Of The West: Big horse who runs in the Arkle colours. Won at Warwick last time, but steps up in class. Wisley Wonder: Refused to race on his last two outings. Choisty: Fell at Becher's in

> Overflowing River: A decent little chaser at his level. Oh So Handy: But not as handy as his name suggests.

the National. Unreliable

Coqui Lane: Not certain to

Conclusion: Norman Williamson is the right man for the job on the aptly named KAMIKAZE, who can show these tired rivals a clean pair of hooves if he can avoid his customary errors. Ottowa has a chance if the ground is soft, while Brave Highlander surface and is capable of is each-way value.

Thirsk HYPERION 2.20 Kierans Bridge 2.50 Mammas F-C 3.20 Lago Di Varano 3.50 Bishops Court 4.20 Quiet Assurance 4.50 Piped Aboard 5.20 Torso

et Assurance 4.50 Piped Aboard 5.20 Torso 5.50 Cashmere Lady
GDING: Good to Soft STALLS: Straight - stands skie; round - riske, DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f and 6f.
Quart-hand course, level but quite sharp.
QCourse is W of lown on ASt. Thirs's station in: ADMISSION: Club 722: Tattersels 38 (OAPs 39; Family Enclosure 23 (OAPs 5150). Accompanied under-the free. CAR PARK: Family Enclosure 29 per car including up to four adults plus all children; remainder free QLEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnston 16-84 (19%), J Benry 13-110 (18%), D Nicholis 12-109 (11%), T D Berron 11-85 (129%).
QLEADING JOKEYS: J Fortune 38-122 (148%), J Carroll 12-130 (12%), L Charnock 11-133 (13%), A Culthane 8-107 (75%...
QFAVOURITIES: 146-413 (55.4%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Channell (450).

U GOLDEN SKY (21) N Triver 8 2 Km Tinder 7
LADY ANSHAN N Bycrott 7 10 S Meloney 9
- 9 declared SETTING: 13-8 Maruman F-C, 5-1 Executive Event, 7-1 Bodfarl Anna, 81 The Dook, Lady Anshan, 10-1 Dispol Trump, 12-1 El Jeytee, Gottlen Sky,
14-1 Midmah

3.20 THOMAS LORD HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 5f

was a secret consumer of Pal.	weighing-room
3.50 MICHAEL FOSTER MEN	ORIAL STAKES
1 2233 TOMBA (181) (D) (BF) 8 Maetran 4 9 2 2242 BISHOPS COURT (174) (D) Mrs J Rar 3 (DD-42 CARRANTA (S) (CD) (BF) 8 Paling 8	nsden 490

-8 declared -BETTANG: 3-1 Tombe, 7-2 Bishops Court, 9-2 Carranita, 5-1 Double Ac-tion, 7-1 Nigrasina, 10-1 Cayman Kal, Venture Capitalist, 16-1 Fire Dome

4.20 THIRSK CLASSIC TRIAL STAKES (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3YO 1m

4.50 BYLAND RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) 53,500 added 7f

- 11 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Piped Aboard, 9-2 Sea Fig. 11-2 Kalley Gaddess, Saligo, 7-1 Bollin Ann, Chamek, 8-1 Happy Wanderer, 10-1 others

ш	•	an	provide, too many fray	s in it.
		5.20	BYLAND RATING REL STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II	ATED MAIDEN) £3,500 added 71
1			5 BARITONE (29) S Kettlewel 4 9 to	="
2	?		3 BARROW CREEK (15) (BF) G Water	
3	•	0-0060	O ONE SHOT (71) W Mur 5 9 19	Dane O'Nelli 2 B
4			- HEY UP MATE (202) J Berry 3 5 11	
5	,		C PORCELLINO (14) F. Burke 2 B m	
6	5	5025	FIRELONIUS (209) J.G. Smyth-Osbourn	e 38 n . R Porham 8
7	,		- TORSO (210) Mrs J Ramsden 3 5 m	
8	1		O DRY LIGHTNING (21) 44 Set 3 8 8	
9	ì		FRISKY LADY (267) TESSERBY 388	
1	0		> WILD LILLY (179) M Ryan 3 8 8	

10 06000- WILD LILLY (179) M Ryan 3 8 8 P Robinson 9
- 10 declared -
BETTING: 9-2 Bosrow Creek, Torso, Dry Lightning, 5-1 Frisky Lady, 8-
Thelonius, 7-1 Hey Up Mate, 10-1 Bankons, 12-1 others
Linearmed Later's all mored to a community for a chemical
E EU LEAL ROUND WANDICAL (CTU222 D)
5.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,200 added fillies & mares 1m
1 005-41 CASHIMERE LADY (26) (CD) J L Eyre 6 10 0 O Pears 5
2 1500- SAFFRON ROSE (232) (D) N. Blanshard 4 10 0 Dale Gloson 1
3 10420- MOUCHE (165) Mrs J Remsden 4 9 12 J Fortune 6
4 4540- CHEVABERRY (262) N1 Britain 4 9 11
5 2453- FLOW BY (187) J Durace 3 3 5
6 0000-0 JUST VISITING (32) 8 Herbsy 19-1 . M Robens to
7 0-9000 FALLS O'MONESS (9) 1 Sure 4 9 T J F Egan 11
B 0240-2 QUIEEN'S INSIGNAA (16) (D) E Arbulty of 5.8 to C Rutter 13
9 05,00- SWEET BETTSIE (336) + Burke 489 D Sweeney (3) 7
10 562 SWEET PATOOPIE (16) B Parbury 455 J Stack 14
TI 14624 MARSKE MACHINE (165) N Tricky 2 8 6 Kim Tinkler 12
12 4400 MISS MAIN STREET (205) J.J. Curn 3.8.2 G Duffeld 9
13 214022 DANCING DESTINY (11) (D) R Bestman 6.7 tt L Charmock 3
14 040:5- SILENT WELLS (352) J.J. Quent 4.7 10 D. Mermarch (7) 4
- 14 declared -
Minimum wanter 7ct 10th True benefician wanter Salari State 7ct 1th

Minimum weight 7st 10th. True handicap weight Skint Wells 7st 4th BETTING: 4-1 Flow By, 5-1 Cashmere Lady, 6-1 Llouche, 7-1 Queen's In-signia, 8-1 Dancing Destiny, 10-1 Seffron Rose, Miss Main Street, 12-1 others

9.00 PEGASUS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 2YO 5f

SIN ALMOOJID Miss K Whathouse 5 11 CONSULTANT (11) (BF) N Lataroden 6 7 ...

Wolverhampton

HYPERION 7.00 Signed And Sealed 7.30 Eithe Hope 8.00 Sakharov 8.30 General Monck 9.00 Lady Carbron 9.30 Aljaz

GOING: Standard STALLS: 71 - outside: remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 61 to 1m 44.

Fibresend surface; left-frend course.

Course is SE of town on \$2028, Station adjoins course. ADMISS.

● Course is SE of town on \$2/28. Station adjoins course, ADMISSON-Cub SS; Tatersals Ef (OAP Diamond Cub SA; Viewing Restaurant \$2990 including eritence and mest CAR PARK Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollimatical 68-637 (127%). M Johnston 58-283 (221%). J Berry 47-STS (149%). P Evans 34-356 (25%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Wester 62-294 (21%). Dean McKeown 31-269 (15%). F Lymch 27-269 (10%). J Quian 27-432 (63%).

■ FAVOURITES: 411 wins from 1272 races (32.3%).

SLEWKERED FIRST TIME: Double Appeal (visored, 930).

7.00 ACROPOLIS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 46yds

_	_	1 70 200 001 1
	122102	PRIVATE DESPATCH (12) M Quinn 8 10 0
	31D4U3	PETOSKIN (28) (CD) (SF) J Posice 69 TJ
	End 0	SERIOUS TRUST (11) Mrs L Jewel 598 D Williams (7)
		SERVICE INDEX (II) MOCOCAL PRODUCT TO THE INTERIOR
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	MAIN.	BEHIND THE SCENES (258) C Cyter 4 9 8 Hoffen
	WHE.	DELIMINATION OF THE CONTRACT AND ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT
	ana ini	SIGNED AND SEALED (14) (CD) C Cyper 48 th. J Wester 10
		CARROLLS MARC (17) (CD) Pil Michel 1089. D Michelle
	ww	Called the Control of

Minimum wegitt Tig 10th. True handicap wegitt Remba Tungo, Dunson Dunyam

& Karareri 75 7D. BETTING: 4-1 Dutas Bay, 6-1 Petoskin, 13-2 Time Can Tell, 7-1 Private Despatch, Behind The Scenes, Signed And Seated, Eriting, 6-1 others 7.30 TROJAN HORSE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 52,500 added 7f

2005 ITALIAN SYMPHONY (45) (CD) (BF) P Sens 499. 1 2025 (FALIAN SYMPHONY (45) (CD) (BF) P Eners 4 3 5.
2 DNSC ELITE HOPE (21) (CD) (BF) N Tricer 6 9 Shean Michaem 10 3 2302 U-ND-HAFRY (12) (D) R HoPerhood 5 9 5. F Lynch 12 4 P000 - CEPBERA (J/4) J Shehr 9 3 4 7 Sprake 8 5 44000 SPLASHED (22) P Famil 4 9 3 7 Sprake 8 6 555-03 SMART GUEST (11) D Shehr 6 9 2 R Birksand (7) 11 7 00000 BARBRALLEN (125) Mrs. Lawel 6 9 0 . D Wilstons (7) 2 8 005-0 FAIRLY SURE (21) N Berry 5 8 13 . P Roberts (3) 9 8 9 5000 - BRGOUST (250) J A Harrs 4 8 13 . P Roberts (3) 9 8 10 36650 OWER THE MOON (7) N Lorandon 4 8 12 . A Window 1 4 0005 DOUBLE APPEAL (14) Mrs G Rose 3 8 2 . A Mickey 1 V 0 R 1895RTIGSBET (127) Mrs K Windows 8 8 2 . J Quinn 7 - 12 doctored -

- 12 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Bits Hope, 3-1 Italian Symphony, 7-2 U-No-Henry, 6-1 Scant Guest, 8-1 Fairly Sure, 12-1 Over The Moon, 20-1 Spizehed, 25-1 others

8.00 JOAN CHALK MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 1f 79yds

CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 1f 79yds

1 255-2 SPACE RACE (19 C Cyse 48 2... D Holland 11

2 3016 BE WARNED (12) (CD) Peace 7 9 2... A Polit (5) 6 V

3 20.300 BARDON HILL BOY (3) (CD) 8 harbury 59 n. A Politic (7) 5

3 2565 SUALIACH (14) (CD) 8 Hollander 5 8 n. A McCarthy 59 1

5 2000. SPARRY (189) M W Esserby 4 9 7... — G Pantin 4 B

6 - 2722 DAV23NO (12) Mrs N Macasey 3 8 n. — P McCabe (3) 2 V

7 2201. TALLILLAR BELLE (172) (CD) N Litmoster 5 8 n. J Warner 7

8 01203 MUTAHADETH (67) D Staw 4 8 9... ... J Charles 10

8 020-6 LAW DANCER (13) (CD) 7 Me 5 7 02. ... J Charles 10

9 020-6 LAW DANCER (13) (CD) 7 Me 5 7 02. ... J Charles 10

10 GGC-0 SCURRES OCCASION (125) R Curs 5 7 02. ... J Charles 10

BETTING: 51 Sekharov, 5-1 Spece Race, 13-2 Suetach, 7-1 Be Warned, Bardon Hill Boy, Durzino, Tatulah Belle, Mutahedsh, 12-1 others

Bardon Hill Boy, Dauzino, Tatulah Bella, Muzaheduth, 12-1 others

BRINDLEY HONDA MAIDEN STAKES

(CLASS D) £5,000 acided 1rm 4f

1 2050-0 SPARTIAN HEARTBEAT (22) 1/03/ea 5 9 13 A McCarthy (5) 8

WINNING TUWN I,116) P Farrel 5 9 13 ... I Speaks 5

3 254-7 DANKA 27) K Corner for 4 9 12 ... M Fersion 10 y

4 54 REVOLUTION (16) R Williams 4 8 12 ... S Winterent 3

5 50 SHETTY (16) T 19 4 3 12 ... N Consists 1

1 TELMAR (131) J Culturent 4 9 12 ... N Consists 1

1 TELMAR (131) J Culturent 4 9 12 ... V Stattney 11

WHAT THE DEVIL (179) J Smith 5 9 8 ... C Reggins (3) 7

8 52385 CHEEK TO CHEEK (199) C Cyzer 4 9 7 ... J Wienter 5

0 07 RISSAGA (19) T Well 4 9 7 ... C Parkin 4

20 003 GENERAL MONECK (170) B Harbury 3 8 7 ... D Holland 2

PIPLI Mis G Flees 3 8 2 ... A Marchey 9

11 declared
BETTING: 10-11 General Moneck, 11-2 Ravolation, Cheek To Citask, 7-1

Spartan Heartheat, 16-1 Pipli, 20-1 Danka, Shirty, Ramsat, 25-1 others

01 LADY CARBROW (11) (CD) JSerry 9 11 C Lowther (3)
WELSH ASSEMBLY G Enright 9 11 A McCentry (5)
BEEANTEE (19) W G M Turner 8 5 D Swonney (3)
MILRRY D Shake 8 6 J Jenning
TARA have 5 6 J Jenning 9.30 PARTHENON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 5f 1 LS-JOUN BILDED S)

1W50 PZZICATO (233) (CD) R Wilams 4 17 0 ... D Griffishs (3) 10

12320 ALIAZ (11) (CD) Mrs N Mazzuby 8 9 12 ... P McCabe (3) 1

20226 RISE 'N SHINE (19) (D) (BF) C Cyzer 4 9 9 ... J Wester 3

00000 BICTION PARK (21) K Comercard 4 9 3 ... C Carver (7) 5 V

00034 ROWLANDSONS STUD (21) K Comercard 5 9 2 M Fourbon 9

440503 WORPYS GRAB MRE (9) (D) K Lony 5 7 1 . Martin Dayer 2 B

005- CLANBILLE CRICK (159) J Berry 3 8 17 ... P Roberts (3) 9

64306 GENERAL EQUATION (32) (CD) J Balding 5 8 2

N Carlisle 11 B

9 -06833 STATOYORK (11) D Shew 58 T1 II Carisis 11 B S 533420 RWER ENSIGN (54) W Brisbourie 58 T1 A McCarthy (5) 7 T1 000850 BOFFY (11) (CD) B Bargh 57 T1 I lone Wands (5) 4 - 11 declared -

How to keep running fast – nod the Radcliffe and Zatopek way



ROWBOTTOM

ON UNUSUAL MODES OF SPEEDING UP

THE sinuous, snow-lined route in winning the world junior around Balmoral Castle last cross country championships six weekend offered those present. years ago. either in person or televisually. an extended opportunity to appreciate a sporting phenomenon: the Paula Radeliffe running action.

Within the first of her five scheduled miles, the 24-yearold from Bedford was out on her own, with a field including two of Scotland's most revered athletes, Yvonne Murray and Liz McColgan, in her wake.

When Radeliffe gets into:

This distinctive charactershe emerged as a major talent concerns.

But what I failed to realise until Saturday's race was that when she wants to go faster, she doesn't merely lengthen her stride as other athletes might. Instead, it is as if she becomes speeded-up film - arms, legs, and, of course, nodding head ali increase in tempo. It's like watching a rowing eight up their stroke rate.

Another thing she does: when at cruising speed, she rolls her stride, she nods. Not con- her eyes. Altogether it is a stantly, but regularly. It is as if curious style, a style which, at she is affirming her own first glance, suggests the danger of imminent collapse.

Fifty years ago, the oddities istic has become well known in of Emil Zatopek's modus coaches have striven to optithe world of athletics since operandi provoked similar

As ne made his way round Their work, more often than not, has proved effective. the tracks and roads of Europe. Linford Christie was never head lolling, face excruciated,

he too appeared permanently relations with the press, but on the brink of black-out. whenever anyone managed to Yet appearances proved get him talking about his sprintpermanently - deceptive. ing technique, his confronta-Never more so than during the tional tendencies vanished. 1952 Olympic marathon in . He always acknowledged Helsinki, when Zatopek the work his coach, Ron laboured to catch up with Britain's Jim Peters, who was setting a bold, if not rash, early

Roddan, had put in to transform him from a promising novice - whose nickname, "Horse", we must presume to have been a reference to his Peters replied hopefully. "Too galloping action - into an slow." But it was he who sub-Olympic champion. sequently biew a gasket as the

The golden rules regarding Czechoslovakian went on to knee lift, hip elevation and running through the line were Generations of athletics absorbed and are now being mise - and standardise - the passed on to a younger generation of British runners. technique of their charges.

I have heard knowledgeable

what you might call easy in his observers of athletics mutter to each other during races involving Radeliffe that if only she could stop nodding, she would gain five, ten, fifteen seconds. It does appear to be wasted energy. But who can say for sure what improvement there would be, even if she could learn to resist this natural

temptation? There is a story on the athletics circuit of a runner whose unorthodox arm action was painstakingly corrected in an effort to optimise their performance, and who subsequently became injured. The arm action turned out to have been a natural corrective to a misalignment of the hip.

always apply. More than once. apocryphal, but it has the ring Athens, I even found myscif That instance may be of truth. Besides, there is another advantage to be gained by those of the Agonised School of Running, namely appreciation.

When one watches one of that pained number, the effort is so patent that it automatically engages one's support. The smooth stylists of this world the Seb Coes, the Wilson Kipketers - have always appeared -- she paused to regain her capable of looking after themselves. You admire, you marvel. But your active assistance does

not appear to be required. However, when you watch Radeliffe striving for medals you find yourself willing her on, silently urging her to wring the last reserves from her - apparently - draining energy. On one occasion, at last year's

There is, of course, a case for saying that all this sympathy is misplaced. Radelitte made it elequently just

A few moments after making her way across the line at Balmoral - a world record and McColgan half a minute behind breath as well wishers gathered around her. It must have been fully five seconds before she recovered, signed an autograph and moved serenely across to the BBC commentary position to give her considered view of the race, the course and her future plans. As she did so. her interviewer began nodding. vigorously.

Hendry and Davis looking for peerless performances

in snooker. Ray Reardon is a Steve Davis and Stephen enough, but so far in the modern game the seventh wonder has proved impossible.

Which will provide the principal plot at this year's Embassy World Championship, starting at the Crucible this morning. Hendry or Davis could both become peerless in Sheffield over the next 17 days. Alternative- to become the greatest player

Void Championship draw

six-time world champion, so are World Championships, which start today. **Guy Hodgson** reports Hendry. Getting there is hard by they could remain bracket numerically as well as by reters and on Sunday was only ed one short of an absolute ma- pute.

jority, as the former was in the final last year. Hendry's 18-12 defeat by Ken Doherty last May stopped a run of five successive titles for the Scot whose main motive for remaining in a sport he

this year." but that was before plot to halt Hendry on six, then has dominated in the 1990s is

to improve on how the £1.3m tournament has panned out. In the first round he meets contested four finals between 1990 and 1994, and if the seedings prevail he will then have to play Darren Morgan, who was one missed blue away from being 11-11 with him in last season's quarter-final, Ronnie O'Sullivan. John Higgins and Doherty. The latter three are respectively, third, second and fourth in the world rankings.

All season he has been say-

"A minefield" is how Higgins describes it, but as Hendry has won the world title with a broken arm before he is the man most likely to find a path through it. "The draw doesn't bother me," he said. "The first round against Jimmy is what I'm thinking about.

it's tust about the tough est I could have got, but by the my best. Now I'm old enough same token it'll be so hyped I'll to cope. Last year my head be up for it. The atmosphere will be superb. This is the ping bits off my cue and alfirst time for five years I haven't played on the first Saturday. I think I'll be more relaxed."

first time in 12 years that he arrived at the Crucible without a er than his trimmed down 12 win, but he broke 11 fruitless stone frame that he also will armonths at the Thailand Mas-rive in Sheffield in prime form.

just pipped by Higgins in the final of the British Open in Plying "I'll be very disappointed mouth. His form, so wretched if I don't get the seventh title at the start of the season his manager Ian Doyle questioned he saw his draw. If some de- his cue action, is looking omi-

pace. "Is the pace too fast?"

Zatopek enquired. "No,"

nously good. vious mind had conjured a "You have doubts, you're only human." he said. "To go he would have had to go some so long without a title when, for years I've been winning five, six tournaments was bound to cre-Jimmy White, with whom he ate doubts. Thailand was important, it proved I could still win. It would have been disappointing to have got to Sheffield without something from the season."

Even so, Hendry has lost six of the last seven finals he has contested, which suggests he no longer sails as close to snooker perfection as he used to and in turn gives hope to the jackals behind him. Higgins more than anyone. Sunday's win was his third of the season and, after falling in the quarter-finals in the last two years, he feels at 22 he is experienced enough to do better.

The last couple of times cible. I've gone there more in hope, wasn't really right. I was chopthough I said I was OK I wasn't."

Neither was O'Sullivan (despite a 147 maximum com-It was also very nearly the pleted in a record 5min 20sec) although there is evidence oth-

Two snooker legends aim to become the seventh wonder of the son and, when he defeated Hendry in the final of the UK Championship in November, it was one of four consecutive

wins over the world No 1. If the bottom half of the draw is loaded, then the top is relatively benign which will encourage Doherty, who would surpass both Hendry and Davis if he followed his first world title with a second at the next op-

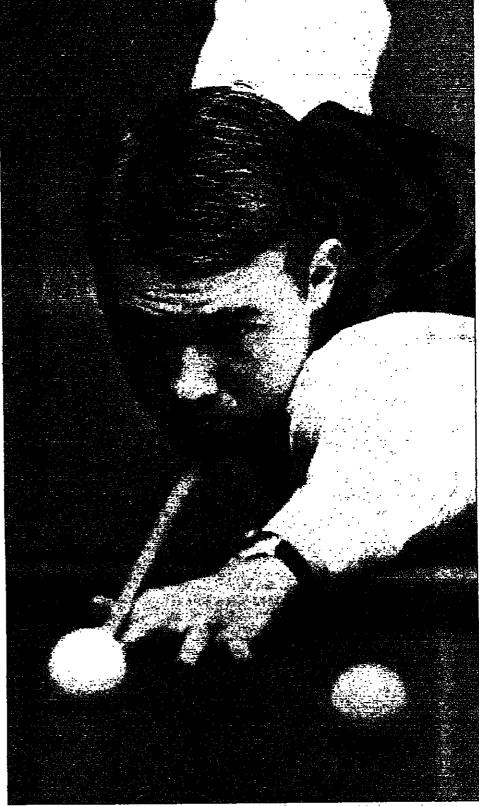
The Irishman suffered a reaction to becoming world champion last year, although his form in the second half of the season is markedly improved on the first.

"People say it's hard to defend the title." he said, "but it can't be as hard as winning it for the first time. That's always the hardest thing. Why shouldn't I do it again?"

Doherty starts against Lee Walker, who reached the quarter-finals last year, while Davis, at 40 the oldest player in the tournament, meets Simon Bedford, who at 215 is the least experienced professional to qualify, having won nine matches at three different venues just to get to the Cru-

Davis's chance of overtaking Hendry and Reardon is reflected in a bookies price of 25-1, although his potential draw is by no means as arduous as it could have been.

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Sheffield) First round: Today: 10am: K Doherty (Rep of Iri) v L Walker (Wal), A Hamilton (Eng) v D Harold (Eng), 2.30pm: J Wattara (That) v F O'Brien (Rep of Iri), J Hoggis (Sco) v J Ferguson (Eng), Tomo Coherty v Walker to conclusion, T Drago (Malta) v A Burden (Eng) Tomorrow: 10am: Wattara v O'Grien to conclusion, Hamilton v Harold to conclusion, 2.30 pm: S Davis (Eng) v S Bedford (Eng), Drago v Burden to conclusion. 7pm: M Williams (Wal) v Q Hann (Aus), Higgins v Ferguson to conclusion.



Stephen Hendry: Aiming for snooker history in Sheffield

Hamed still has to convince

Henman suffers Tokyo blow

Tomps of the control

John Higgans (2)

Alan McManus <u>(10)</u>

JAN-MICHAEL GAMBILL blasting two-handed returns from both sides, knocked out British No 2. Tim Henman, the last of the top seeds, from the Japan Open vesterday, beating the No 3 seed, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the quarter-finals.

Gambill, now up to \$1 in the the Ariake Colosseum. world rankings from 176 at the end of last year, broke Henman three times in the final set. He capped the last break and the match with a two-handed forehand down the line that Henman could not handle with a stabbing backhand volley.

The top seed, Patrick Rafter. and the No 2, Michael Chang. had been beaten in the two previous rounds, leaving Byron Black of Zimbabwe, the No 10, and No 11, Gambill, as the highest survifing seeds.

With the tournament hit by days, all matches were being played under the closed roof of

Gambill moved up in the rankings after the Indian Wells tournament last month, when he beat three top 50 players -Mark Philippoussis, Jim Courithe semi-finals to Marcelo Rios.

said: "I don't think really either of us played particularly well. There were times when I played better, but my problem was I didn't execute the shots that I had to."

 Marcelo Rios' injured left.elrain for the third time in five bow is more serious than originally thought and may keep him away from the court for several months, his father said yesterday. Rios Jnr is in Miami and his father. Jorge, said he was undergoing a new battery of tests yesterday, but participation in the Monte Carlo Open. er and Andre Agassi. He lost in which starts on Monday and where he is the defending champion, was unlikely.

Chester coach Burton makes way for Peers

Basketball* By Richard Taylor

MIKE BURTON resigned as head coach of the Chester Jets yesterday after watching his team suffer through a disappointing, injury-hit campaign.

Burton, last season's Budweiser coach of the year, is swapping places with assistant coach and former England player Robbie Peers, who guided Chester to three wins in Bur-

ton's absence this season. "It was my decision and there are no regrets," Burton said. "Robbie is ready to be a senior coach and I want to sup-

Wembley reservations, Greater finals alongside Thames Valley London Leopards and Birmingham Bullets have been Sharks 2-1). dragged into an extra weekend's League play-offs in two week's

League champions Leopards and runners-up Bullets thought the hard work was behind them after away victories over Manchester Giants and Derby Storm. but midweek defeats have taken both series into tomorrow's decisive third round.

Newcastle Eagles, beaten at London Towers last weekend, made home advantage count with a 73-50 win on Tuesday and also need tomorrow's third could have made them."

Instead of making their game to take their place in the Tigers, who beat Sheffield

Leopards lost their chance of work before the Budweiser an easy road to Wembley at free throw line on Thursday, where they missed 13 out of 27 shots as Brett Larrick's eight from 11 three-pointers blasted Giants to a 107-98 victory.

The Leopards coach Billy Mims said "We were only five points down with 40 seconds to play, but when you've thrown away 13 free throws I don't know if you deserve to win.

"We know Larrick is a great shooter but we left him so wide open for some of his shots I

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 Maybe people will recognise me now as Mark OfMeara, the Masters champion O'Meara, tired of being mistaken for Mark McCumber and Tom Lehman.

When I got on the first tee and saw the look in Jack's eyes, I could see I was in for something special. Ernie Els on partnering Jack Nicklaus in the final round of the Masters. When you get an opportunity like I had today and don't take it you feel you have let yourself down Jack Nicklaus, after a final round of 68 left the 58-year-old in joint sixth place in the Masters.

He doesn't care about being kicked or punched or shoved. He's a warrior and he's never let me down. Glaniuca Vialli, on Mark Hughes, whose goal put the Italian playermanager's Chelsea side in the European Cup-Winners' Cup final.

If my team shows as much determination, then we'll get there. Alex Ferguson, hoping Manchester United's Premiership title chase will end as happily for him as his horse Queensland Stars winning first race at Newmarket.

events. If he does not do so will-

By Glyn Leach

NASEEM HAMED, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion and headline attraction of Frank Warren's extravagant multi-title fight promotion at the Nynex Arena, Manchester, this evening, should be returning to the British ring as a conquering hero. But, following December's up-anddown four-round win over Kevin Kelley in New York. Harned has some convincing to do against the veteran Puerto Rican, Wilfredo Vazquez.

Hamed's American debut was thrilling for viewers of the US TV network Home Box Office, which is paying him \$12m (£7.3m) for six fights. But it underlined, categorically, that at the level Hamed has now reached, sloppiness will be punished. And Hamed has appeared to become more lax rather than more clinically lethal as the ante has upped. Watching his recent performances has been akin to watching a man with everything to live for play Russian roulette.

For all his flash, Hamed is the product of a stable Muslim background. But the 24-yearold, who has earned in excess of £10m, seems caught up in the whirlwind that his career has become and may need to take a step outside his situation in or- Puerto Rican can punch, parder to effectively evaluate recent

ingly, then self-analysis and soulsearching will be forced upon Hamed by inevitable defeat.

It is easy to comprehend how one whose elaborate ring walk tonight is scheduled to begin 15 minutes before the fight might feel the need to win dramatically - a dull, 12-round win on points hardly embellishes a pyrotechnic entrance too crass even for the rock band Kiss. Harned, undefeated in 29 fights (27 KOs). has won his last 17 fights, dating back to May 1994, by stoppage and is proud of the fact.

But as an amateur, the Yorkshire southpaw of Yemeni descent was more boxer than brawler, stopping only 18 opponents in over 60 wins. Some of that youthful circumspection would not go amiss for the champion, who tonight makes his ninth title defence.

The challenger Vazquez, 36, has come for the money. The former three-time world champion gave up his World Boxing Association title, for which he was due to receive only around \$100,000 to defend against the mandatory challenger Antonio Cermeno, in favour of a sum around three times greater.

But despite his 60-fight experience (50 wins, seven defeats, three draws), Vazquez will have . to earn his money the bard way. With 37 KOs to his name, the

throne Hamed, even a technically negligent version. Hamed predicts this will end in the second and it should do, but Russ-

ian roulette's a funny old game. The local limelight-shirker Carl Thompson's WBO cruiserweight title defence against the former WBO middleweight and super-middleweight champion Chris Eubank is a marriage of convenience. Thompson, 33, was unhappy at the purses being offered him for less famous opposition, while the 31-year-old Eubank, whose last fight was at 12 stone, steps up two weight categories to challenge for a world title after losing his last

three fights at that level. Eubank claims his "walking around" weight has long been hard-hitting. Hide is a dangerclose to the 13st 8lb cruiserweight limit, but he will concede height, range and natural strength to a blue-collar champion (22-4, with 16 KOs) who shuns public attention as much as Eubank seeks it.

Weight is one thing, but power is another entirely and, on that crucial level, it is inconceivable that Eubank can be Thompson's equal. Eubank has trained longer and harder than for any fight since his momentous war with Nigel Benn in November 1990, but that seems

looks too shop-worn to de- feats and two draws), but there would be no disgrace in his seeking an exit should the going get 🚓

too tough tonight. The WBO has seriously compromised itself, and the organisation's two-time heavyweight champion. Herbie Hide, by sanctioning the title challenge of the plainly unworthy Damon Reed. A journeyman cruiserweight from the Dustbowl circuit in the American mid-west. Reed, 26, has cannon fodder written all over him and admits to being terrified of the near-16 stone Hide, whom Reed alone views as a "giant heavyweight".

Norfolk's Hide, 26, himself a former cruiserweight, has talent aplenty but he has become a problem to match. Fast and ous proposition for all but the top heavyweights. But after a 10month lay-off since regaining the title against veteran Tony Tucker, after which Hide suffered the trauma of his younger brother Alan's death from leukaemia, it is perhaps wise that a fighter viewed as psychologically erratic will not be severely tested here.

Reed, however, is taking things to extremes. The American has lost only one of 26 fights. but has only beaten "stiffs". It is rumoured that Hide, orthodox in stance if not style, aims to unlikely to be enough. Tough record his 30th win (28 by KO and brave for all his foppery, at present) by fighting as a Eubank has never been stopped southpaw. Reed's challenge ticularly on the counter, but he in 50 fights (45 wins, three decould hardly be better defined.



New order down at Vicarage Road

Twickenham in three weeks'

time. The reality is very dif-

gone if we lose tomorrow and while we would still have the

cup to play for, we would be in the testing position of hav-

ing to win it from a low point in terms of morale," pointed

out the Saracens captain, Tony Diprose, whose direct rivalry with Ryan will again be spiced

by their private rug-of-war over the England No 8 shirt.

"If we win, we will still need an-

other team to do us a favour.

But the more anxious we can

leave Newcastle feeling about

their final four cames, the

better. It will be close, just like

last month hardly made it onto

the charge sheet under the

"daylight robbery" heading -

after all, they outscored Sara-

cens by three tries to one - but

they made only sporadic sor-

ties behind enemy lines that

night and similar territorial de-

ficiencies at Gloucester last

Saturday indicated that their

one-paced pack might be run-

ning out of four-star. "We did-

n't see the ball for the best part

of 40 minutes at Kingsholm,

Ryan admitted, "But we still

squeezed the result by taking

the few opportunities that

came our way and if we're

equally clinical tomorrow, we'll

give ourselves some elbow

room. Rather that than have

Sarries scrapping us all the way

to the last day of the season."

Saracens will start the con-

test with the same 15 who

proved too strong and, dare we

say it, too cultured for Bath at

the Recreation Ground on

Good Friday. That means an-

other start for Ben Sturnham

alongside Diprose and

François Pienaar in a beauti-

fully balanced back row and if the formidably powerful new-

comer leaves his calling card

on a few Geordie ribcages, he

may well find himself accom-

panying England on this sum-

mer's tour of Australia, New

Newcastle, meanwhile, will

delay naming their side for as

long as possible: aches, pains

and muscle strains affecting

Rob Andrew, Valaiga Tuiga-

others, have left the publish-

ers of tomorrow's match pro-

gramme strauded in the land

of supposition. Tuigamala, who

"copped a calf" in the opening

five minutes of the Gloucester

match but stayed on until the

bitter end, is the most serious

doubt and there is a strong pos-

sibility that Joany Wilkinson.

the youngest England cap in

acons, will see his learning

curve take another sharp de-

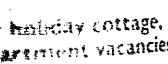
Zealand and South Africa.

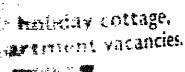
Newcastle's 30-25 victory

last time.

"The Premiership will be

ferent, however.





14 Y 77 15 28

er Gateshead stadium for the forthcoming visits of Bath and Leicester. Business is booming with a capital BOOM. "We're starting to become a focal point for the north-east and while most of us can still safely embark on a shopping

Tomorrow's 20,000

between Saracens

and Newcastle is a

English club rugby,

BIG, bigger, biggest. A sell-out crowd of 20,000 will sardine

their way into Vicarage Road

for tomorrow's irrestible rum-

ble between Saracens and

Newcastle and if the record-

breaking audience marks a

new summit in the fortunes of

both chibs - when Michael Ly-

nagh first pitched up at Sarries

two years ago, he was in seri-

ous danger of mistaking their

Southeate clubhouse for the

groundsman's hut - it is also

a watershed occasion for Eng-

lish domestic rugby. The old

Bath-Leicester plutocracy is

dead and buried. Here comes

As recently as last Christ-

mas, anyone found publicly

peddling the possibility of a

15,000-plus crowd for an Allied

Dunbar Premiership game fea-

turing neither of the two tra-

ditional warhorses would have

been dismissed as a screwball

or given a seat on the Rugby

Football Union's management

board, which amounts to the

same thing. The sight of

Wasps, the reigning champions,

struggling to attract a quorum

of supporters to Loftus Road

for perfectly marketable

Heineken Cup matches rein-

forced the ancien regime in its

view that free-spending club in-

vestors were flirting danger-

ously with the economics of the

so have witnessed a sea change

in the public perception of Pre-

miership rugby - and not only in the union strongholds of the

West Country and the East

Midlands, either. Newcastle, a

team gasping for the oxygen of

exposure in a city where foot-

ball is not only God but the

Son and the Holy Ghost as

well, crammed 8,000 souls into

their 5,000-capacity Kingston

Park venue for the game with

will relocate to the much larg-

But the last three months or

madhouse.

everybody.

says Chris Hewett

sell-out match

watershed in

definitely beginning to feel side to a second victory over silverware. "Newcastle peo- of support at the moment." part of what is a fantastic the Londoners in the space of ple respond emotionally to sporting community," said 26 days, will almost be able to success on the sports field, renewal of hostilities so com- that the delicate psychological Cornishmen beef up county show

the tail-gunner's role.

Leicester Premiership match, the Women's Cup final featuring Saracens and Wasps and the County Championship decider. between Cheshire and Coruwall - and two of them have attracted live television coverage, writes Chris Hewett.

by Football Union's more outspoken power-brokers, the county showpiece is the odd one

Twickenham vicinity plays bost

to three contrasting games this

afternoon - the Harlequins-

mere presence at The Stoop of

Interestingly enough, given stark relief. the views of some of the Rug-So too does the fact that

A SIGN of the times? The mers should keep their eggs in North-west have been forced to the Premiership basket; the cancel coach transport through Quins match may not have a lack of interest and even bearing on the destination of the though 25,000 Cornishmen Allied Dunbar title, but the plan to undertake the traditional pilgrimage along the M3 Zinzan Brooke and Dean and M4, Twickenham will al-Richards, the rival coaches, will most certainly be less than half allow the talking heads to jaw full. Indeed, were it not for the themselves to distraction. But involvement of Cornwall, the the broadcasters' enthusiasm last keepers of the county for the women's match puts the flame, the stadium would be

trip without having to sign a Dean Ryan, the Newcastle taste the champagne swishing whatever the form it happens pelling is that Saracens are

thousand autographs, we're captain who, if he inspires his around in the Allied Dunbar to take. We're riding that wave surfing the big swell every bit

decline of county rugby into less than a quarter full. It is a far cry from the high days and holidays of the mid-Cheshire, champions in 1950 1980s, when county rugby galand 1961, will be cheered on - vanised passions on a

crowd, made such an impression on the England selectors that they took five of the victorious pack on the summer tour of Woodward would have trouble recognising five of the 30 play-

Flichael Lynagh (left) and Rob Andrew, the rival outside-halves, will be involved in the last stimmish of a compelling personal conflict

Popplewell and Paul van Zandvliet Cular thishing machine. The Naylor- ing Lynagh into Test retirement in the the Rugby Football Union chair-and while Dockie Weits insatiable. Underwood combination gives the last eight of the 1995 tournament, man, looking like a cross between

cation long Diproses athleticism in marginalise a talent of Tim Stimp- together. The last skirmish in a things rolling by sweet-talking the

son magnitude must be useful. compelling personal conflict.

The "Flash Harry" factor

ship's strong arm bully brigade; but Carlos Santana's percussion section,

astle may have earned them: The Saracens back division has a Andrew and Lynagh, Lynagh and

serves a reputation as the Premier more cosmopolitan feel to it than Andrew. The rival outside-halves

Salvacens have a clear edge in the but for all its southern hemisphere and have been doppelganging each

During and grind area. Roberto influence not to mention a certain other ever since. Lynagh place-Grati and Paul Waltace are scrum. Philippe Sella - it does not quite kicking Andrew to defeat in the 1991

raging group affectively than Nick stack up against Newcastle's mus- World Cup final, Andrew drop-goal-

appentie for big-time rugby contine Falcons contrasting potency on And still, there is barely a fag pa-

most effective all-round lock in Eu-sheet iron midfield, thanks to Talt and more physical game. Lynagh the

at the time out, especially as they can of rugby league. Any side able to awareness, they remain superglued

popean rugby, Garath Archers drop Tuigamala's streetwise operation more fluid, but in the big-money ar-inform gives the Londoners parity of a defensive strategy straight out eas of goal-kicking and tactical

Two sporting revolutions: How they compare

The "Mastermind" factor

were born 10 months apart in 1963

What makes tomorrow's reading of the runes suggests

Happily, another traditional foundation stone of British rugby, Pontypool RFC, may be on the road to recovery after a terday that all assets and liacalamitous collapse in fortunes. A seven-man consortium led by Eddie Butler, the former Welsh No 8 and captain, will run "Pooler" from the end of this

Butler, who played alongside Terry Cobner, Jeff Squire and the hallowed "Viet Gwent" in the great Pontypool side of the late 1970s and early 1980s South Africa. Today, Clive before graduating to rugby journalism and broadcasting, has persuaded several local businessmen to throw their financial weight behind the takeover. Tony Simons, the club secretary, confirmed yes-

as confidently. A superficial

bilities had been signed over to the new group. Pontypool were knock-out finalists as recently as 1991 but are now fighting a rearguard

Bowring's job in question THE Welsh Rughy Union is to Gethin, said yesterday: "The chairman, Glanmor Griffiths, hold an inquest into Wales's dis-

began with his recruitment of Eng- ers' dressing room. Given the choice

land's golden boy while Wray set of meeting either Pienaar or Dean

their coach, Kevin Bowring, with the World Cup only 18 months away. Aithough Bowring. Wales first full-time professional coach on a salary of about £50,000 a year, has a contract that will take him through to the finals in

questions over the future of

The "Moneybags" factor

Take two deadbeat clubs in two un-

fashionable rugby areas, throw in two

mighty wallets and what do you get?

Two sporting revolutions. Sir John

Hall and Nigel Wray have matched

each other cheque for cheque and

their dynamism has left Cliff Brittle,

the Rugby Football Union chair-

King Canute and Tyrannosaurus Rex

Again, the Andrew-Lynagh link is cen-

tral; Hall's reinvention of Newcastle

Australian equivalent.

Welsh finals next year, there is increasing speculation about

mal Five Nations Championship week and will discuss the Five campaign. They finished third Nations campaign. That will but suffered crushing defeats by then be considered by the gen-England and the Grand Slam eral committee early next winners. France, which raised month.

home stretch with their noses a Tetley's Bitter Cup final at flection towards the vertical.

Photographs Peter Cook; David Hewitson

The "Desire" factor

Newcastle have triumphed by a sin-

gle score at Bath, Leicester,

Northampton and Gloucester this

season and in the context of Eng-

lish club rugby, there can be no more

persuasive evidence of their psy-

chological durability. When the Fal-

cons go to war, the backward step

is not an option. Until recently, their rivals' mindset seemed fragile by

has now imposed his death or glo-

ry Springbok ethic on the London-

Ryan on a rugby field, it might be

easier to emigrate.

balance favours the visitors: in front, while the Londoners'

Ryan and company, two points now-or-never attitude should

clear with a game in hand, can have been blunted, albeit sub-

lose this one and still enter the consciously, by the prospect of

three defeats by Australia and one each by South Africa and New Zealand. cutting their costs by accepting a ceiling on expenditure on

has produced only four champ-

ionship wins in 12 matches plus

The programme as a whole in The Mission: Ice Cool In by be reaching the limit of how

their players. "The figure will be based on

technical committee meet next said. "The principle of a salary

eight Premier Division clubs." Cardiff's dispute with the Union over signing a 10-year loyalty agreement will now be Bowring's three-year spell heard in the High Court on 9

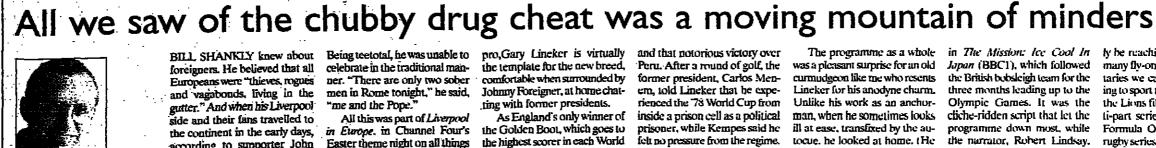
November. Bristol, bottom of the Allied Dunbar Premiership One, and Bristol Rovers, the Second Division football club, are to form Welsh clubs are considering a company to secure the future of the Memorial Ground. The ground will be sold to a new company called the Memorial Stadium Company for £2.3m,

ing to sport there's a surfeit, with

do a video diary in a particular-

ly remote part of the Amazon.

or, rather, whimpered on - by nationwide scale. Gloucesterhis future. 65 per cent of anticipated income with the company jointly owned action against relegation from season following agreement It is entirely understandable fewer than 500 travelling sup-shire's comprehensive dismanfrom all sources," the WRU by Rovers and Bristol. the Welsh First Division. The WRU secretary, Dennis porters. County officials in the tling of Somerset in the 1984 with the club trustees. that the Sky Sports program-



CHRIS MAUME ON TV

foreigners. He believed that all celebrate in the traditional mangutter." And when his Liverpool side and their tans travelled to the continent in the early days, according to supporter John Jones, "We were all war babies, Scouse. As a Manchester Unit-

do a sortie." Tommy Smith had the usual footballer's reaction to expediand a fellow telling you can't have under Paisley from a cavalier, atcoffee 'cause he hasn't got any." tack-minded outfit to the canny the mind even back then. When off like seasoned assassins. Still, Liverpool won the 1984 Euro- a 3-0 defeat to Internazionale pean Cup final in Rome, Bob was good to see, especially with Paisley remarked: The last time one fan confessing to kicking the I was in Rome I was in a 10-ton ref as he left the field. truck. We beat the Germans then and we beat them tonight," archetype of the old-school

BILL SHANKLY knew about Being teetotal, he was unable to pro, Gary Lineker is virtually and that notorious victory over Europeans were "thieves, rogues" ner. "There are only two sober "me and the Pope."

Easter theme night on all things and it felt like we were going to ed fan, I watched with mixed emotions: the grainy footage was evocative, and in the early days they won nothing, but it was tions abroad: "It was four walks painful to watch their transition Nice to see that travel broadened operators who could kill a game

If Tommy Smith was the

the template for the new breed, comfortable when surrounded by and vagabonds, living in the men in Rome tonight," he said, Johnny Foreigner, at home chatting with former presidents. As England's only winner of

All this was part of Liverpool the Golden Boot, which goes to in Europe, in Channel Four's the highest scorer in each World Cup finals, Lineker was the obvious choice to front a new series on the history of the sportsman's mantra for when tournament. The first Gary Lineker's Golden Boots (BBC1) saw him in Argentina, talking to a survivor of the first final, in 1978, when Mario Kempes won at for the generals.

1930, then whizzing ahead to sarella, were both indignant when asked about the 6-0 win over Peru that put Argentina into It was surprising to see Lineker addressing the two con- the sacrifices we had to make to troversial issues from that tour- win the World Cup," Passarella nament - the bread-and-circus said, while, for Kempes, the

from the oppression and torture, ing the whole nation."

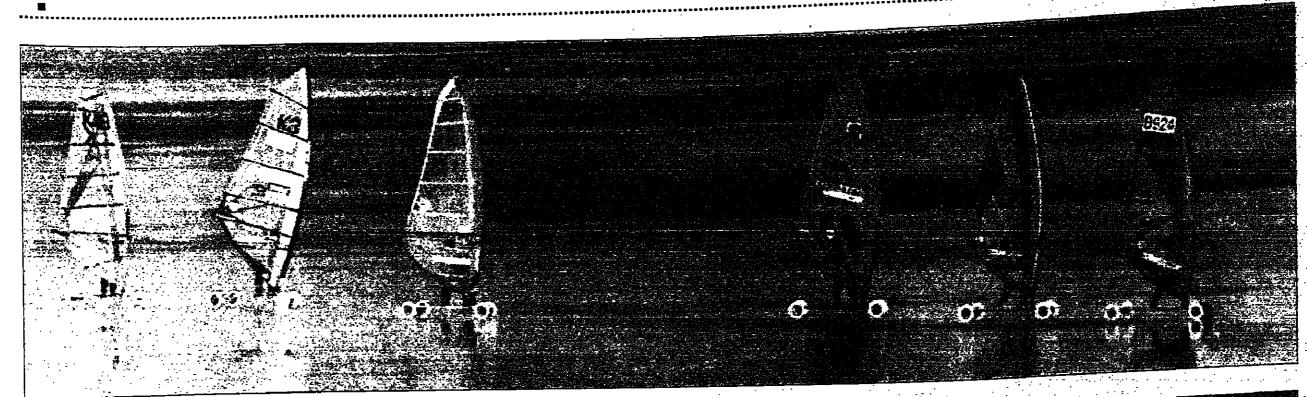
was a pleasant surprise for an old Japan (BBC1), which followed many fly-on-the-wall documen-Peru. After a round of golf, the curmudgeon like the who resents the British bobsleigh team for the taries we can take. Even stickformer president, Carlos Menem, told Lineker that he expe-Lineker for his anodyne charm, three months leading up to the rienced the 78 World Cup from inside a prison cell as a political prisoner, while Kempes said he felt no pressure from the regime. "We had nothing to do with polities." he said, emitting the such questions arise. Yes you did, Mario. You just didn't realise it. Twenty years on, Kempes and the 78 captain, Daniel Pas-

Golden Boots ready to deliver a the next stage. Only we know frustrated by an intelligent, entertaining half-hour. Damn. element, distracting attention conspiracy theorists "are insult-There was raw meat to be

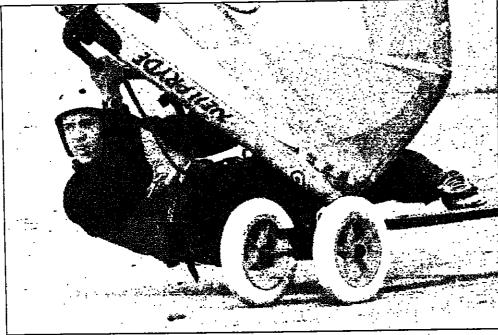
Unlike his work as an anchor-Olympic Games. It was the man, when he sometimes looks ill at ease, transfixed by the autocue, he looked at home, tHe tried to get hold of Diego Maradona at some function or other, but all we saw of the chubtentous delivery. by drug cheat was a moving mountain of minders careering past.) Matters were helped by a literate script from Slan Hey. who wrote Striker, the series hased on Lineker's Barcelona so-

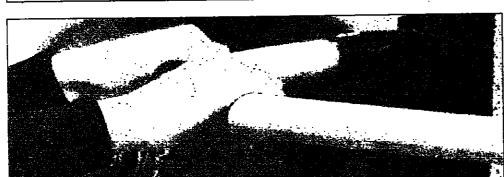
futile and unnecessary. The other caveat is that, as chewed up and spat out, though, with wildlife films, we must sure. Now that would be a result.

the Lions film last week, a mulcliche-ridden script that let the ti-part series on the Benetton programme down most, while Formula One team, the Bath the narrator, Robert Lindsay. rughy series last year and the reseemed to feel the need to lend cent Premier Passions - to name an air of gravitas with his poronly the ones that come most immediately to mind. Perhaps to A big problem was that anyspare us some of it, they should one who might have the remotest combine the genres - Easter interest in watching a docu- Monday's lemmings documenmentary about bobsleigh racing tary, for example, could have might just have noticed that heen shown instead of Premier there was a competition going in Passions, which depicted Sunjourn. I came to Gan Lineker's Nagano not so long ago, and that decland hurling themselves over Our Brave Boys took home the cliff into the Nationwide critical Golden Kicking, but was Britain's only medal. So the at- League. Or John Inverdale tempts to create suspense were might be persuaded to go off and











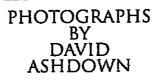
Power of the wind

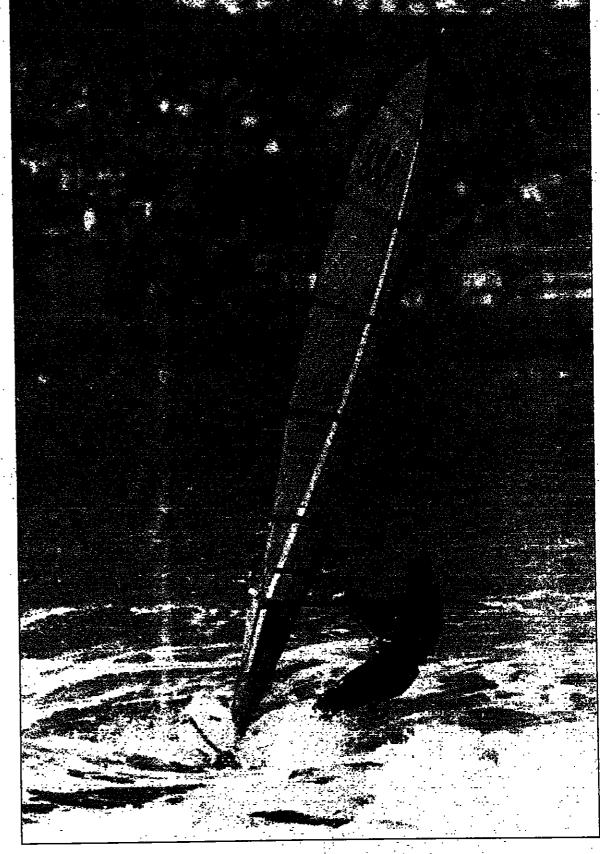
THE weather may not have been ideal, but this week's rain and wind failed to dampen the enthusiasm of those taking part in the Renault Scenic Interna-

in the Renault Scenic International Sand and Surf Festival
held on the beautiful Gwithian
Beach in St Ives Bay, Cornwall.
The event has been running all
week and finishes tomorrow.

Among the competitors has
been Lee Bartlett, Britain's
three-times surfing champion,
who is aiming to compete in the
world championships in Portugal later this year.

Two of the main disciplines
have been windsurfing and sand
yachting, with the same sail used
for both events. One of the highlights of the festival is a "surf
triathlon", in which competitors
speedsail, windsurf and finally
surf, running between disciplines as they attempt to beat
the clock.









Weath turns in favo of Luft

where they were hammered in

the Challenge Cup six weeks ago, as a much more convinc-

ing side. Salford will be without

the injured Scott Navlor, with

Scott Martin deputising, and

Cliff Eccles is still not fit, but

Steve Blakeley and Andy Platt

changes, with their outstanding

forward. Steve Craven, and

their stand-off, Gary Lester.

both injured. Brad Hepi will

move to second-now with David

Stephenson starting at hooker.

whilst the Fijian, Fili Seru, will

switch from the wing to stand

London, still without a win.

will fancy their chances of break-

ing that duck at home to War-

rington, who looked strong

candidates for the wooden

spoon in defeat by Saltord last

week. Terry Matterson, in

charge in the continuing absence

of Tony Currie - still in Australia

on family business - has selected

himself at hooker, with Mark

Carroll and Grant Young back

in the starting line-up on either

side of him. Glen Air is recalled

at serum-half, with Wes Cotton.

Damien Chapman and Nick

Mardon left out. Vince Fawcett

is dropped by Warrington, to be

replaced by Chris Rudd or, if fit

London have become only

in for Lester.

Hull also have to make

Biggest test

for improved

Blue Sox

Rugby League

ONE of the four unblemished

records in Super League will

disappear tomorrow at Central

Park, when Halifax - already

performing beyond most ex-

pectations - have their sternest

The former Wigan loose-for-

ward, John Pendlebury, has

Halifax looking a much more

reliable side this season, al-

though he will be hoping that

his influential new Australian

scrum-half, Gavin Clinch, will

be fit to play after sustaining an

ankle injury during the victory

If not, Chris Chester will

continue at scrum-half, with

Martin Moana at stand-off, Hali-

fax have signed a scrum-half for

the future in 18-year-old Paul

Ashton, the Great Britain Youth

international and son of the for-

mer Oldham plaver, Rav Ashton.

weeks filled with a gratifying

uncertainty, the one predictable

element has been Wigan, whose

sheer solidity is reviving images

of their domination of the game

They are even stronger

omorrow than of late, with

Mark Bell returning on the

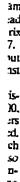
wing and Simon Haughton.

Over an opening couple of

over Huddersfield.

test yet against Wigan.

By Dave Hadfield



Atherton felt yesterday, when, 22 minutes into his first innings since being dismissed leg before by Curtly Ambrose for 13 in the final Test in Antigua last month,

the world is conspiring against

you. And that may well be how

Atherton's gloomy return

ilar frustrating fashion. Jason Lewry, back in action 21 months after bowling his last ball in anger following an operation to cure a stress fracture of his lower spine, was quickly into his stride from the Sea End. He that with some runs. Correction, got his second delivery to Ather-

to Atherton's opening partner Nathan Wood, the 23-year-old son of the former Lancashire batsman Barry. The left-handed youngster looked assured, if a trifle cautious, in the uncertain

dent footwork resulted in the

bowler's appeal being upheld by

umpire Mervyn Kitchen and

Atherton, having played out

three maidens to James Kirtley.

was on his way without scoring,

cumspect thereafter. Maybe he felt weighed down by the added burden of the captaincy. As vice-captain he has charge of the team until Wasim Akram returns from his tour of duty with Pakistan. Whatever

ter an hour and a quarter, but

when he found a ball to punish

His partner. John Crawley -

another with much to do to re-

store the England selectors faith

ous drive through extra cover for

in him - began with a sumptu-

he did so with some style.

the reason, that was Crawley's only scoring shot for the next 41

bowled with controlled ag-

gression, and showed he has re-

discovered the art of moving

the ball away from the right-

tuning, but at the business end

Only he will know if his ac-

shoulder injury, bracketed among the possible substitutes. The other perfect record at stake – astonishingly to many – is Hull's. They go to Salford, enham on 16 May.

few years ago.

the second club, after Wigan. gradually recovering from a who won the tournament two in the Middlesex Sevens, to be held on their doorstep at Twick-

Jon Roper.

Morgan targets rare place in final

Badminton

which start in Sofia today.

Mette Pedersen, the world No Danger players en route to KELLY MORGAN believes

Katarzyna Krasowska.

man is seeded eighth. her tremendous run of form in Bulgaria. The world No 15, from Wales, has this year already become the highest ranked British singles player

since computerised rankings began seven years ago. Now the 22-year-old looks capable of achieving something over the next nine days which has not been managed since England's Fiona Smith came within one point of capturing the European title in Moscow in 1990.

"I've been able to swim and use the exercise bike, so I've kept in reasonable shape," said Morgan, who is seeded No 3 and has been supplemented by a helpful draw. She is in the opposite half to the top-seeded, the defending Danish champion a semi-final with another Dane, gold medals.

a medal could be a third Lane.

Anne Sondergaard, the Rossian she has sufficiently recovered from her ankle injury to become Ella Karachkoya and the Pole the first British woman for eight years to reach a singles final at The best British hope in the

the European Championships, men's singles is Darren Hall, who became one of this country's two Morgan, who missed the European singles champions 10 British Grand Slam tourna- years ago, and who is now the ment in Cardiff three weeks ago, oldest player at 32. The Essex has been back in training for 10 days, and looks set to continue

Favourite for the men's singles is Peter Gade, who became world No 1 for the first time earlier in the year, and who is seeded for a final with his compatriot, Poul-Erik Hover, the Olympic champion.

England have players seeded in four medal winning positions, with Lancashire's Chris-Hunt and Worcestershire's Simon Archer at No 3 in the men's doubles, a title they won four years ago. Joanne Goode continues her encouraging return after having a baby with seedings suggesting semi-final places in two events, the

women's and mixed doubles. Denmark is seeded to repeat its record-breaking achievement of two years ago in Herning, when it became the first Camilla Martin, and could have country to win all six European

knifed across Michael Athernot without their share of playon the ground where. 10 years the only boundary of the innings to date, but was equally cirton's Test career this winter folpreviously, he made his maiden ers looking for some instant suche saw his first opportunity to lowed him to Hove. The hardy cess - and among them is silence the doubters end in simfirst-class century for Lancashire. members had to endure five At that stage there were five His step-down from the Enghours of hanging around the runs on the board, all of them

when you're hot you're hot, but swing into the former England

when you're not, it seems as if captain. A marked lack of pru-

a lot of runs. Unfortunately ton - a ball of good length - to Slater's injury clouds Cork's day

Duck shoot: Michael Atherton is leg before for 0 yesterday at Hove, where Lancashire made 32 for 1 against Sussex

Weather

turns out

in favour

SPAIN'S Santiago Luña took

full advantage of near-perfect

conditions for 13 holes to

shoot 68 and go into the lead

at five under par during the

second round of the Cannes

Luña, 35, two shots off the

pace after the first round, had a

36-hole aggregate of 137 to go

one shot clear of Australia's

Robert Allenby, France's Jeff

Remesy and England's David

Lynn, all of whom were still wait-

ing to begin their second rounds.

first man out, had shared the

overnight lead with Allenby,

Remesy and Lynn on 67, but fell

away with a three over par 74

despite also being blessed with

the fine weather.
Luna explained: "There was

very little wind when I began my

round but between the 13th and

14th holes the wind got up and

it was very strong at the finish."

"But I played most of my round in perfect conditions so

... Luña had five birdies and

only two bogeys on his card and

hit iron approach shots so close

for his birdies that the longest

Singh was five under and in

the lead after seven holes but bo-

gevs at the 11th and 13th, plus

a double bogey at the last, sent

him back to one under.

England are

quickly into

their stride

ENGLAND established them-

selves as the favourites to win

half by converting a corner.

an scored from a penalty stroke,

Giles claimed a second and

Duncan Woods scored the best

goal of the game after collect-

France two opening goals before

winning 4-2, thanks to three

penalty corner conversions from

Phil Webster and a well-taken

final goal from Richard Forsyth.

In a one-sided game Scotland

also missed two penalty strokes.

Earlier, Scotland gifted

ing a superb Garcia pass.

Hockey

By Bill Colwill

putt was only 10 feet.

i was very lucky."

The Indian Jeev Singh, the

Open yesterday.

of Luña

Cricket

THE chill winds that have

gloomy county ground before

they could savour the first ball

of Sussex's new season. The de-

layed start to proceedings

added to the gloom of a grey

day and would have heightened

the Four Nations Tournament Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire at Southgate when they beat SO FAR, so good for Dominic a surface which was green in ing Derbyshire hoping that, if Nottinghamshire were ground Wales 6-1 in their opening game-Cork. His first day as captain of Wales started well, but Eng-Derbyshire went so smoothly minute, with Calum Giles converting their first penalty corner.

Michael Slater, the county's Coming together for the first time under new coach David new overseas player. Nottinghamshire, not un-Bunyan, Wales levelled through David Hacker, but Jimmy Wallis restored England's lead. Russell Garcia, making his 235th international appearance without too much distinction to beat Jon Potter's British against a disciplined four-

record, then lifted a penalty manned seam attack. They may have felt they did stroke over the bar, but made amends early in the second green, but that should not have abling Tweats to complete the As the Welsh tired, Jon Wy-

their first dressing room inquest

victory over Pakistan in Preto-

With a record of four wins

and one loss so far, South

ries one-day international.

parts, but Nottinghamshire's their Australian can somehow down by sheer, old-fashioned that he might, in his dreams, grim perspective by Adrian have scripted it himself - apart. Rollins and Tim Tweats, operthat is, from an injury to ating mainly on the front foot with an assurance that no one

There are enough of those

on the Sussex squad which

David Gilbert, their director of

cricket; wants to pare down to

a more manageable 20 from its

present 26, but Lancashire are

land captaincy means he now

has to fight for his place among

the rank and file. While his qual-

ity as an opening bat cannot be

denied, he needs to reinforce

had shown earlier. Derbyshire held their slip reasonably opting to bat first on catches too. - no mean achievea firm, dry pitch which was a ment in these conditions - but credit to all concerned, did so at a price. Slater, who looks like being a considerable asset to their close fielding, broke a bone in his left hand when he not enjoy too much rub of the slash from Paul Johnson, en- games.

been too high on the agenda at catch at first slip. Three overs later Slater him-

an unbeaten 79 to lead South the final. Pakistan finished the tal of 145 after Pakistan had

wins and four losses while Sri

losses heading into Sunday's

South Africa needed only

clash against the host nation.

of the season. True, the ball did self took a more straight for- ly proof. The quartet of seamswing - which was probably a ward chance to dismiss Tim ers all quickly found the requisurprise to everyone on such a Robinson but was then obliged site full length, which allowed bitter day - and it sometimes to go for an x-ray. A visit to a the ball to move and, apart from moved lavishly off the seam on specialist is now required, leavtotal of 118 was soon put into grip a bat, this is one of those injuries that may enable him to protection.

know-how will face sterner tests club blazer and ties for the first knocked up a fast travelling two days of all Championship

chosen to bat first.

their own errors of judgement.

Once Paul Pollard had ofplay with a certain amount of fered no stroke to a ball which must have swung late to have The luckless Slater apart, him lbw, the door was always Cork had no worries. His pow- open. Though Mathew Dowers of leadership and tactical man held on stoically for 33 overs, he was never able to venin the days to come, but already ture much and there was some there are those who will have evidence to suggest that after given a quiet nod of approval to spending three seasons in his edict that his team will wear South Africa, Nottinghamshire found this pitch a bit beyond them.

Cork himself produced a Such discipline off the field good delivery, which bounced brings its rewards on it, so the and left Jason Gallian, and he

all was highly encouraging and there was no shortage of pace when he brought himself back to polish off Nottinghamshire's Elsewhere, the accuracy of the two supporting bowlers, Paul Aldred and Kevin Dean, did much to keep the pressure

on. Aldred produced as many

potential wicket-taking deliveries as anyone, while Dean's first ball of the afternoon was a perfect, swinging, yorker which probably surprised Chris saying goes, and here was ear- was well picked up at slip.

Unbeaten Kallis thrills home crowd to lead South Africa into triangular final JACOUES KALLIS smashed Africa have clinched a spot in 35.3 overs to pass a meagre to- ship with Kallis after fellow steer the team to victory. The Pakistani batsmen had been opener Mike Rindel was caught easily contained, with only Infor a duck off the fourth ball he zamam ul-Haq (33) and Moin Azhar Mahmood eventual-Khan (25) making much impact, while Steve Flworthy took a caly bowled Kirsten, leaving it to

reer-best 3 for 28 and three bats-

64-run second-wicket partner- Hansie Cronje to help Kallis

faced from Wasim Akram.

Baseball

contributed 35 off 55 balls to a Daryll Cullinan (14) and captain

Cricket

Hamoshire's Danish fast bowler Thomas Hansen will miss the first month of the season after fracturing a bone in his foot. Hensen, 24, who w signed after impressing at the end of last season, was injured while bowling in pre-season nets. Equestrianism

Golf
CANNES OPEN Leading second round sources (GB or in unless stated): 138 C OCornor Jrr 72 64 137 S Luña (Spi 89 68 138 P Fulks (Swe) 73 65 D Higgins 69 69; S Alan (Aus) 71 67 139 P Lornard (Aus) 68 71 140 P Price 74 65 T Gillis (US) 73 57 141 J Singh (Ind) 57 74 S Struver (Gor) 69 72 J Lomas 71 70, P Sjotand (Swe) 72 69; A Sherborne 73 68; S Wichslar 70 11 42 J Townsond (US) 70 72 D C horp (Swe) 69 73, M Mouland 71 71 D Lynn 67 75 R Jacquelis (Pri 69 73 R Allerby (Aus) 67 75. 143 D Howell 73 70, C Van der Velde (Neth) 71 72 C Wintelsow (SA) 72 71, P Walton 72 71, A Sandywell 69 31 O Edmord (Fr) 72 71, P Linhart (Sp) 72 71 S Lahary (Fr) 72 71, D Robertson 73 70, M-A Martin (Sp) 69

74, G Turner (NZ) 70 73, J Haeggman (Swe) 70 73.

Ice hockey

NHL: Prisburgh 4 Carolina 1 Montreal 2 Or-iawa 0, NY Islanders 4 Tampa Bay 0, Philadel-pha 7 Florida 3, New Jersey 1 Chicago 1 (se). Colorado 4 San Jose 1, Phoenx 3 Dallas 2, S1 Louis 7 Los Angeles 3, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Ljubiljana, Slovenia): Group B: Slovenia 4 Norway 3; Britan 7 Decmark 1; Estonia 4 Netherlands 2; Ukraine 6 Poland 3.

dang): 500cc: Leading qualitying times: 1 M Blaggi (II) Honda tun 29.335sec; 2 Tedeyuki Okada (Japan) Honda 1:29558; 3 N Aola (Japan) Suzuki 1:29883; 4 J Kocinanayon Osaga (Japan) Sucaki 1:29883; 4 J Rocinski (US.) Honda 1:29902; 5 Y Kagayama (Japan) Suzuki 1:29902; 5 Y Kagayama (Japan) Suzuki 1:29952; 6 C Onesa (Sp.) Honda 1:29581; 7 Kyoji Nanba (Japan) Yamaha 1:29984; 8 M Dochan (Aus) Honda 1:30834, 2 O Jacques (Fr) Honda 1:30634; 4 T Harada (Japan) Aprilla 1:3167; 5 F Porto (Ang) Aprilla 1:3125; 6 H Aoki (Japan) Honda 1:31427; 8 R Rotifo (It) Honda 1:3253, 2 R Locatelli (It) Honda 1:30691; 3 K Sakata (Japan) Aprilla 1:36484; 4 T Manako (Japan) Honda 1:36585; 5 F Petti (France) Honda 1:36713; 6 G Scalvini (It) Honda 1:36585; 7 Youchi U Japan) Yamaha 1:36985; 8 M Azuma (Japan) Honda 1:36978.

Halifax Blue Sox have signed 18-year-old Great Britain youth interna-tional scrum-half Paul Aethon from Saddleworth Rangers. He is the son of former Oldham, Leeds and Work-ington scrum-half Ray Ashton. ARL: Marily 28 Brisbane 4; Sydney City 50 Adelaide 12

Premiership match against Hawick and is expected to be out of action for at least eight weeks. "Missing the tour is a big blow." Chalmers said. "I had been really looking forward to it but these things happen. I now have to gear my-self up for the next season." SUPER 12 (Pukekoho, Auckland): Auckland Blues 34 Northern Bulls 24

Tennis

SEAT-GODO MEN'S OPEN TOURNAMENT (Barcelona): Third round: S

Bruguera (Sp) to F Dewnil (Bel) 6-2 1-6 7.

5: C Caste (Sp) bit M Sain (Rus) 6-4 3-6 6.

5: C Moya (Sp) bit B Uthrath (C2 Rep) 6-4 7-6, 17 Martin (US) bit 3 Dosedet (C2 Rep) 6-3 7-6 Quartin-finalis: A Berazaegua (Sp) bit Y Katehnkov (Rus) 6-4 6-4; C Moya (Sp) bit Y Katehnkov (Rus) 6-4 6-4; C Moya (Sp) bit P Harly (Sloval) 4-6 6-3 6-3.

JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo) Men's singles quarter-finalis: J-M Gambil (US) bit Henman (GB) 6-3 4-6 6-3; D Vacek (C2 Rep) bit D Prinosa (Ger) 6-4 6-1; B Black (Zm) bit H Dreelman (Ger) 6-2 6-3. A Paver (Pom) bit D D Disca (US) 6-3 7-6. Women's singles quarter-finalis: A Suggrama (Japan) bit E DeLone (US) 4-6 6-1 6-1; C Moranu (US) bit N Sawamasu (Japan) 7-5 6-3; A Franger (US) bit N Pratt (Aus) 6-2 4-6 6-2 W Sh-ing (Tips) bit M Pratt (Aus) 6-2 4-6 6-2 W Sh-ing (Tips) bit M MOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TOURNA-

bt L McNeil (US) 4-6 6-4 6-1
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL Second
round: P Suarez (Arg is) J Abe (Ger £-3
6-0; Li Fanq (Ch) bt Å Serra Zanetti (ii) 75-5-7 7-6, G L García (Sp) bt J Kostanic
(Croa) 6-4 7-6; L Nemeckova (Cz Rep) bt
C Black (Zmi 6-2 7-5; N Hrdickova (Cz Rep)
bt M Lucc 6-1 7-6; A Alcazar (Sp) bt N Derly
(Fr) 6-3-6-2. S Kloceat (Ger) bt A Serra Zaneb (ii) 6-2 3-6-6; Olga Lugina (Ukr) bt 5-C
Torrens Valero (Sp) 6-3 6-1. Quarter-final:
K Hrdickova (Cz Rep) bt Olga Lugina (Ukr)
3-6 7-5 6-4.
GROBANK TOUR (Bournemouth) Ouro-GIROBANK TOUR (Bournemouth) Quar

GIROBANK TOUR (Bournemouth) Quarter-finals: Mem: T Sent's (Norfolk) bit M Lee (Susser) 4-6 6-1 6-2. R Matheson (Sco) bit D Sherwood (Norfolk) 6-7 6-4. L Sale (Rsa) bit P Hant (Berks) 6-4 6-4. L Sale (Rsa) bit P Hant (Berks) 6-4 6-1. L Misgan (Midda) bit N Weal (Hampshire) 6-3 6-1. Women: L Joubent (Rsa) bit J Devison (Gusser) 4-6 6-1 6-2. L Perfors (Durham & Ceveland) bit G Niland (Irl) 6-1 7-6. E Erboya (Cze) bit C Lyte (Warvicka) 6-4 6-4. H Matthew (Berks) bit L Gabai (Isr) 7-6 6-4.

SENIOR WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAM-PIONSHIPS (Liechtenstein): Pool A: Mel-ta 0 Iceland 3, Cyons 3 Ireland 0. Pool B: Gerefter 0 San Marino 3: Luxembourg 3

Cricket scoreboard **Britannic Assurance** County Championship First day of lour, 11.0 today

> bebind Notlingtamentice (b).
> Nothingtampine won toss
> NOTTINGEMAMSHRE — First Innings
> M P Downen low b Aidred
> P R Poland low b DeFreitas
> J E R Gallien c Tweets b Cork
> P Johnson c Tuests b Dean
> R T Robinson c State b Aidred
> U Atzes b Aidred
> C M Tolley low b Dean
> A G Wharf low b Dean
> TW M Noon c Kridden b Cork
> K P Euns c Kridden b Cork Total (47.4 overs) 118 Felt: 1-19, 2-28, 3-56, 4-61, 5-61, 6-64, 7-67, 8-74, 9-97. Sowling; DeFreitas 10-4-12-1; Cork 124-4-45-3; Dean 11-4-29-3; Akired 14-2-90-3.

Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire

PERBYSHIRE - First Innings A S Rolles o Downan b Bowen A Twents not out Total (for 1, 47 corers) ----RE 1-78. Ubet: M J Slatet, K J Barnett, M E Cassar, L G-Cork, tK M Krikken, P A J DeFreitss, 7.5-Con; TA No Francis Aldred, K. J. Deen: Geffing: Bowen 15.4-27-1; Wharf 6-1-28-0; Wane 10.4-21-0; Tollay 8-3-19-0; Gallen

19210 Implies: J.C. Balderstone and M.J. Harns. Strategestershire v. Glamorgen BRISTO: Glamorgen (Opts) have score 178 for 5 against Gloucestershire (2). Glanorganire won loss GLANORGAN - First hinlings

o Fibracia Reset to Levis A Wigners C. Wigners C. Wright h Alleyne A Dale frof Cut M. Paleyner Burb Walsh Market De A Cottes but h Market B. A Cottes but h Market B. Butcher run auf P Butcher run out DB Croft e Hancock b Lewis CHOOLESTERSHIRE: NJ Thatoc RJ Cun-line. 7-H C Hericock, AJ Winght, "M W Allayse, R1 Dawson, TR C Russel, M C J Big. JJ Leeds, AM Smith, C A Welsh. Littlewis, AM Smith, C A Welsh. Littlewis, C A Holder and N T Plaws.

Sussax v Lancashire HOVE: Lancashire (Opts) have scored 23 for 1 against Sussex (0). Sussex won toss LANCASHIRE- First innings N T Wood not out ton low b Lewry

Robinson B-3-9-0, war an annual sezent SUSSEC M T E Pelice, W G (hain, "C J Adams, N R Taylor R K Reo, K Newell, tP Moores, R S C Mertin-Jenhus, J D Lawry R J Kirdey, M A Robinson Umplines: M J Khohen and D R Shepherd Warwickshire v Durham EDGBASTON: Durham (4pts), Brat-innings wickets shinding.

Tunis behind Warminstere (5)Durbam won toss
WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings
D P Oster b Betts
N V Kright b Wood
B C Lara c Speight b Wood
D L Hemp c Lewis b Philips
T L Penny b Betts
D R Brown c Speight b Harmison
N M K Smith b Betts
T Frost c Phillips b Harmison †7 Frost c Philips b Harmison ... M D Edmond c and b Betts E S H Giddins c Morris b Betts

8-322, 9-329. Bowling: Betts 172-2-86-5; Wood 17-2-65-2; Harmison 19-4-76-2; Collingwood 8-1-33-0; DURHAM - First Innings JJB Lewis b Glodins M A Reselverry not out ...

Palit 1-0. To bath 1D C Boon, NJ Speak, †M P Spaght, P D Collingwood, M M Betts, J Wood, N C Phillips, S J Harmison. Umpireu: K E Palmer and A G T Whitshead. Worcestershire v Essex WORCESTER: Worcestershire (4p with nine first-innings standing, are runs behind Essex (2).

Africa to an easy seven-wicket preliminary round with two

ria yesterday in a triangular se- Lanka have two wins and three

WORCESTERSHIRE- First Innings W P C Weston not outV S Solenki Ibw b Nott

Yorkshire v Somerset YORKSHITE V STANDARD (2pts) have HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire (2pts) have YORKSHIRE - First Innings

arker not out . SCHERSET: *P D Bowler, R J Harden, M Trescotrick, S C Ecclestone, G D Rose, 1R J Turner, K A Parsons, A R Ceddick, P C L Holloway, A R K Plerson, K J Shine, Lumpirest A Clarkson and B Leachester,

No play yesterday

CANTERBURY, Kent v Middlesex

J Wood low b Parsons Write c Turner b Trescothick

AXA Life League THE OVAL: Surrey v Northamptonshire

Other first-class matches Cambridge Univ v Leicestershire

Kallis fired six fours and

two sixes in compiling his total

off 122 balls, while Gary Kirsten

NER'S: Leicestershire have scored 2 against Cambridge University. Cembridge University won loss LEICESTERSHIRE - First finings
V J Wells not out
D i, Maddy b Lowe
LJ Surciffe not out
Extras (02, lks)
Tools (for 1, 15.3 overs)
To bet: "J J Whatsler, B F Smith, A Habit,
C C Lewis, If A Nison, J Omnord, T J Meson, M T Birthson,
Bowling: Lowe 8-4-10-1: Schaffer 73 ** A

w i primson. ing: Lowe 8-4-10-1; Schelifter 73-3-9-0. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: JP Pyemon ET Smith. O.J. Hughes, "A Snigh, W.J. House G. R.Lovendge, I Mohammad, †M. J. Birl J. Molfatt, J. P. Lowe, P. A. Schaffter Umpkres: H. D. Bird and A. A. Jones. Oxford University v Hampshire THE PARKS: Hempshire have scored 325 for 3 against Oxford University. Oxford University won toos HAMPSHIRE – First innings G W White c and b Mather ... G W Write C and o Marrier

"R A Strain c Byrne b Wagh

"K A Strain c Byrne b Wagh

"K S kendal not out

Extras (b7, w6)

Total (for 3, 103 overs)

Fair: 1-95, 2-213, 3-305.
To bat: J P Stephenson, S D Udai, tA N Aymes, S J Rensham, P J Hartley, C A Connor OXFORD UNIVERSITY: D R Lockhart, J Parker, M.A. Wagh, B.W. Byrne, *J.A.G. Ful-ton, J.A.M. Mollins, D.J. Eadle, †L.G. Bucha-nan, R.R. Gartand, D.P. Mether, J.R. Cockroft Umpires: P. Willey and N.A. Mallender.

Tomorrow's fixtures

Fall: 1-195, 2-213, 3-309,

CANTERBURY: Kent v Middlesex. THE OVAL: Surrey v Northemptonshire. EDGEASTON: Warwickshire v Durham. MEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Somerset.

Sporting digest

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Chicago White Sox 8 Balbinore 2; Seathe 3 Minnesota 2 (fürnings); Caldand 12 Kansas City 7, Tampe Bay 6 Anahelm 5.

MATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 12 Philadelphia 4; Atlanta 3 Pritisburgh 1; St Louis 5 Articona 4 (1st game); Anzona 8 St. Louis 5 Articona (1st game); Chicago Cuby 8 NY Mets 4; Mawaitae 5 Mantineal 3 (14 minnes); Los Angeles 4 Colorado 3 NY minnesos Libration 7

BOWIS

INTERNATIONAL OPEN (Blackpoot) Qualifying fountament: Section one second roads.) Reynolds (Pearborough) bit P Brown (Presthick) 7-5 5-77-5, D Peacock (Mederinari) bit C Sarbarne (Car) 7-2 7-1, S Sevens (Carditor) bit A McCarley (Llanell) 7-4 7-5, K Rice (Edinburgh) bit J Borneth (Fin 17-4 7-5, K Rice (Edinburgh) bit J Borneth (Fin 17-4 7-7-7, Gary Strien (Sunderland) bit M Cooper (Blackpool Borough) 4-7 7-0 7-3. Section five first round: R Pairs on (East Lothern Lanell) 7-3 7-1, G Magnas (Lothernoch) bit M Cooper (Blackpool Borough) 4-7 7-0 7-3. Section five first round: R Pairs on (East Lothernoch) bit G Fourtain (Lucon) 7-3 7-1, D Harding (Cardit) bit G Prosser (Barryre, 7-1 7-1 B Broad (Merthyr Tydfai bit D Best (Chry of Ely) 2-7 7-1 7-6 T Raylor (Lambrathyre) 3-7 7-7 7-4. Section is first round: A Bushell (Newport) bit W Simpson (Lambashike) 7-5 7-3. M McCleek (Bellest) bit N Collett (Carditi) 7-1 1-7 7-2 G Ridgeon (Churchown) it R Keening (Pymouth) 7-5 7-6. D Broadfurst (Sociating) bit 9 Medicath (Suchury) 4-17-3 7-4, G Monts (Stepness) bit O Overt (Preston Brightos) 7-5 7-0, I Sadde (Bawynt) bit J Watton (Potention) (Fotention) 7-6 7-2.

Lucy Thomson, who won the 1995 European Open Championship for ire-land, filled the top two places in yesterday's Pre-Badminton Dressage and Jumping Challenge which was or-garised by the International Event Riders Association. Thomson plans to

NEU COUNTRYSIDE INSURANCE PRE-BADMINTON DRESSAGE AND JUMPING CHALLENGE (Grange Farm Equestrian Centre, Cambs): 1 Welton Molecuse (L. Thomson, Irl 332 penalties; 2 Welton Ro-mance (L. Thomson, Irl) 336: 3 Swizzle In (A Hoy, Aus.) 34; 4 Broadcass News (M. Todd, NZ) 344

Football

men were run out.

Birminghem City, still hoping to make the First Division play-offs, may be without the central defender Gary Ablett for the rest of the season. He will see a specialist on Monday amid fears that he has suffered a torn stomach muscle in training. Crewe's First Division match with Sheffield United next Tuesday has been postponed because the Blades have several players on international duty. It will now be played on Thurs-

Teams taking part in the World Cup finals must allow the public and me-dia to attend at least two training ses-sions before every match during the tournament, Fifa, tootbalfs world goveming body, said yesterday. "If a isam refuses to leave tree access to two training sessions, then the last training session on the eve of the game which usually is behind closed doors, must be onesied to the media." said must be opened to the media," said a Fifa official, Walter Gagg, at a news conference in Paris. The Kilmarnock goalkeeper Colin Meldrum has signed a new contract with the club that will take him through

FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT (South-gate HC) First Day: France 2 Scotland 4: England 6 Wales 1

Motorcycling MALAYSIAN GRAND PRIX (Pesir Gu-

Rugby League

Rugby Union Craig Chalmers will miss Scotland's tour of Australia after sustaining a knee injury on Wednesday. The Melrose fly-half suffered cruciate ligament damage to his right knee in the clubs

Volleybal!

Mrs Entwhistle solves the sleeping arrangements



THE **GAFFER TAPES**

whistle. I don't know how England or myself would have managed without her. We careful. could have even blown our World Cup chances. As it is we're back on track and, when Gienn's brave boys meet up tomorrow night, everyone should be sorted.

It all started when Glenn picked so many players in his squad - and insisted they all turn up. Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those complaining managers - although it is unfortunate that Shaun Prone and Duane Spice, our only English qualified firstteamers, will both pull hamstrings late in today's match. No, I'm right beind Glenn, he's a lot on his plate and it's no wonder he never thought to consider if the team hotel had enough rooms for 34 players plus his coaching and support

It hasn't. Honestly, the trouble its caused me. in my role as England Team Assistant, trying to arrange the Adams with Paul Merson,

the season you have to be so

Just imagine. Gary Neville sion. gets up in the middle of the night to answer a call of nature, he trips over Ray Parlour's kitbag, which has been left in the sprains his ankle. Fergie would go potty, he'd be saying Arsène had put Parlour up to it. And Newcastle saying that Darren Anderton's snoring had kept him awake for three nights and he was too tired to play at White Hart Lane next-week.

United players must be kept apart. Spurs and Newcastle about it but there's still a bill likewise. The Arsenal boys are on the way to the FA. a real problem. They obviously can't share with Spurs and the FA Cup final's too close to out them with Newcastle. Fortunately we can now put Tony

THANK Heaven for Mrs En- accommodation. It's hard there was a time when we had enough anyway, at this stage of to put them at opposite ends tempted to have a bit of a ses-

> man" as well now so we were going to put him in with Merse and Tone on a roll-away bed. middle of the room, and As an uncapped player he's first choice for that sort of thing but we've had to abandon the idea. Glenn wants to be fair to what if Rob Lee went back to everybody and that meant the other uncapped players also had to be on roll-aways. Not a problem with Dominic Matteo, he was in with Macca and Jamie, but Kevin Pressman Even cheerful old Kenny on a roll-away bed? No, I might not see the funny side didn't think so either. But on. John Gorman insisted so we So Amenal and Manchester gave it a go. Bad idea, the hotel manager was very good

> > It's not just the players either. The masseur, the physio and the doctor need extra rooms to work in while Fileen the faith healer, has to have the rooms above, below and to the

side left vacam so her work isn't Andrei Shevchenko. The club affected by negative energy said this put pressure on a of the hotel in case they were (if she means Ian Wright's young player before very some ghetto blaster I can't say I important matches and sought plame her). Altogether we were six rooms short.

Mrs Entwhistle. She used to £1m each. That should put run some digs for me when I them out of business which managed Blackfarm Rovers serves them right, the Adverbefore she moved south and tiser has been running a camopened a guesthouse in Windsor. Well, the cold snap's deterred the tourists so she had enough spare rooms to look atter the rest of the team. They're a lucky half-dozen. ly gave the money to charity. too, they'll get a full cooked breakfast, none that poxy muesli and yogurt Glenn insists

Meanwhile, back at the Old Cornfield, we're suing the local press. They've carried a series of reports linking Leroy Ganja with Manchester United and it's beginning to affect his form. Now, I saw in a recent World Soccer that Dynamo Kiev successfully sued a Ukrainian paper for claiming Milan were after

damages. They won £129,000 so we're suing the Sludgethorpe That's when I remembered Advertiser and Studge Times for paign against me for weeks while the Times carried a picture of me which showed my

> The Ukrainians apparent-Obviously we'll look into doing the same ... maybe.

It's been such a busy week with paperwork I've hardly been on the training pitch at all-- not necessarily a bad thing when it's snowing. I did see Ivor Niggle bruise a rib sliding into the groundstaff's snowman, however, so he's out today. Shaun Prone starts, but, like Savo in front of goal, won't

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

SIDELINES

Graham hands referees a warning

referees, the Leeds United manager, George Graham, was yesterday counselling them to keep their cool during what is certain to be a heated end to the season.

Graham fears the officials could deal a rum hand to those clubs with much at stake over the next few weeks. He experienced what he describes as "overreaction" during last week's 2-0 defeat at relegationthreatened Everton.

Graham felt Uriah Rennie "lost the plot" during the first-half at Goodison Parksending-off Lucas Radebe and handing out five other bookings - which left the Sheffield referee with no leeway for the rest of the

Leeds, pushing for a Uefa Cup place, travel to and doesn't happen to us and other side deep in trouble in other teams over these last Bolton today in what is just

Ten things

NEVER one to hold back one of a number of critical when venting his frustration on games as the season draws to an end.

He said: "Over the last few weeks of the season there are some very important matches for some teams, whether they are fighting for their lives, going for titles or trying to quali-

fy for Europe. "Referees are well aware of that and I would just ask them not to over-react because there's a lot at stake. I don't think the behaviour of the players is as bad as some referees anticipate.

"They think to themselves: 'We must take a tight grip on the game' and that's what happened to us at Everton last week. The referee [Rennie] anticipated a difficult game, but it was not the case. I think he over-reacted and now I hope it

Comic book needs happy ending

Victory over Vicenza will take its place in Cheisea folklore.

Mike Rowbottom reports.

FULHAM BROADWAY station crupted into song late on Thursday night as passengers on both platforms responded lustily to the urging of two fans brandishing a giant Chelsea scarf.

After seeing their team reach the European Cup-Winners' Cup final with a recovery that will take its place in Stamford Bridge tolklore, the home supporters appeared ready to party all the way to the final in Stockholm on 13 May.

Chelsea's opponents there. VfB Stuttgart, had better beware of one thing - if they score early, they could be in trouble.

It took the goal which put Vicenza 2-0 up on aggregate to concentrate Chelsea's collective mind. Their fitfulness is the one continuing concern of their player-manager Gianluca Vialli.

The only problem we have got is that we can't play all the time at the same level." he said, after giving a truly inspirational performance which included the sublimely-directed cross which enabled his colleague Gianfranco Zola to levof the aggregate scores.

which most other teams would Cup. Coca-Cola Cup and European Cup-Winners' Cup - in the space of less than a year is testament to their exhilarating amend that record to three cup

"In Europe at the moment they think we are a good side." he said. "But the only way to be really respected is to win something, and it would dramatically change our image in Europe the on a shield after being to win this competition,"

praise of Mark Hughes, whose goal six minutes after his arrival as a 70th-minute substitute put Chelsea in a position to further kept me going."



Chelsea's problem is one Gianluca Vialli and Gianfranco Zola help Mark Hughes celebrate his storybook Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final winner

love to have. Three finals - FA raise their European profile, At the age of 34, Hughes showed the same explosive sharpness in front of goal which he displayed in earning Manchester United ability. But Vialli wants to the European Cup-Winners' Cup seven years earlier.

"I want to thank Mark." Vialli said, "He scored a great goal, and he's a warrior when he plays. He's never let me down."

The warrior could have been excused leaving the field of batwhacked senseless by an Italian Vialli was generous in his elbow. I didn't know who hit me but I've never been hit as hard in my life." Hughes said. "It was only the adrenalin which

ly capable - and at times, hugely unlucky - Italian side was the kind of goal he has been scoring all his life. But this, he ac-

special ones. "I've scored a few important goals in my career," he said. 'Hopefully people will remember that one for a few years to

Vicenza's manager, Francesco Guidolin, will probably remember it to his dying day. While history - in the form of televised snippets - will reduce this match to one surging fightback after an early setback, the

The angled volley with which truth was that Chelsea lived little figure of Zola, whose per-Hughes finally killed off a huge- dangerously at the back from formance was hugely more imthe first minute to the last. And the visitors might easily have had three goals themselves had not fortune, or the knowledged, was one of the burly home custodian Ed de Goey, taken a hand.

But such is Chelsea's potency going forward that - thus far in .the competition at least - they have overcome such shortcomings. It is comic book stuff, and it deserves to be treasured. "We touched the final with

one hand, but not both," Guidolin reflected ruefully. It was a disconsolate occasion for the Italians - apart, that

is. from Vialli and the beaming

pressive than that of the first leg. On that occasion he had been obliged to play a wide role. At Stamford Bridge, he flourished in a freer, more central position, tipping the tie with a gloriously certain header.

Are you watching. Cesare Maldini? Zola was hopeful that the Italian manager was - and that he would also be watching the final.

So the District Line trains pulled out of Fulham Broadway on the night of Chelsea's Glorious Comeback. "If you're all going to Stockholm, clap your hands," someone shouted.

Many voices responded again. Those dizzy days of 1971, when Osgood and Co took this tro-

phy in Athens - they're back. ● The Premier League has turned down Chelsea's request to bring forward their last Premiership fixture of the season - a home match against Bolton - from Sunday 10 May to help preparations for the European

Cup-Winners' Cup final. The BBC has won the exclusive rights to screen the European Cup-Winners' Cup final between Chelsea and VfB Stuttgart next month, pipping Channel 5, which has followed the west London club since the first round of the tournament.

53 days

the start

Cup finals

..until

of the

World

Tunisia, who take on Glenn

Motherwell's Namibian Eliphas Shivute might be missing. today I "He'll miss beef," said -7 "People being friendly. the lady at the Namibian on public transport. Why

High Commission "Real beef, that is. On the each other here on

2 "And other meat," she meats and steaks. Oryx,

3 "And Etosha National Park." [One of Africa's [160km long, 27km wide most beautiful, and no doubt a good place to pick up a bite to eat. 4 "The sun, the sun."

5 "And the rain. We like rain, but not the way it pours down here."

Tafel is a popular one."

do people never speak to trains? They can't all be asleep. In Namibia, you added, salivating, "Game get on the bus and peopie say hello."

8 The Fish River Canyon is popular." and up to 550m deep. You call the Highlands spectacular? 9 "The dunes and the sea.

The scenery." 10 "There's only one TV channel, but there is a 6 "Beer. Beer of course." popular soap. I can't re-

NAME OF THE GAME No 31: WIMBLEDON

WIMBLEDON'S youngest supporters, who have only known seen their team play at Selhurst Park following the move from Plough Lane in 1991, might wonder why their club is named after a London suburb many miles away. Delving deeper into history, Wimbledon Old Centrals Football Club was formed in 1889 by old boys from Central School. The name lasted until 1905, when it was changed to plain old Wimbledon.

like to reflect on their meeting in rather different cir- only finish runners-up. cumstances at St James's Park just over two years

Newcastle had led the table for almost the whole season, but had started to slip. Their previous two games had seen a 2-0 defeat at West Ham and a 3-3 draw at Manchester City. Manchester United had won five games in a row and were breathing down Newcastle's

necks. Manchester had won their meeting at Old Trafford in December, goals from Andy Cole and Roy Keane earning a 2-0 victory. At St James Park it was the turn later moved to Newcastle in of Eric Cantona to score the the deal which saw Cole

AS Manchester United and United on course for the Newcastle United prepare championship. It proved to for their match at Old Traf- be critical for Newcastle, ford today, both teams might who lost three more of their last 10 games and could

Last season Manchester failed to score against Newcastle, who won famously 5-0 at St James' Park in October and fought out a goalless draw at Old Trafford in The 5-0 triumph was

Newcastle's first win over Alex Ferguson's team in the Premiership. The 1993-94 season saw two 1-1 draws, a scoreline repeated at St James' Park the following season. When they met at Old Trafford in October 1994 Manchester won 2-0 with goals by Gary Pallister and Keith Gillespie, who only goal of the game and set switch to Old Trafford.

ON 16 April 1988, Hearts beat Celtic 2-1. Hearts' win consolidated their second position in the Scottish Premier Division behind their opponents.

manager Graeme Souness, only managed to draw 1-1. with Hibernian to remain third, ten points adrift of

Rangers, under playertheir Old Firm rivals.

prolific striker, John Robertson, ended his seven-year association with the club, joining Newcastle for £750,000. Robertson's departure did not unduly trouble his side, who finished the season second to Celtic. Rangers finished third, 12

The next day, Hearts'

points off the lead. They have won every title since.

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harns, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk

Shunned Harkes is left out in the cold dividual who has performed so willing to keep an open mind Jamaica

THE national team coach, Steve Sampson, caused a major surprise this week when he announced that his team captain John Harkes, one of the that, although Harkes had acmost experienced American players, will not play in the World Cup finals in June. Sampson told reporters he

had dropped Harkes - a veteran of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups who has played 90 times for the United States ~ because of a combination of leadership issues."

into details about the question of leadership from a player who has been the heart and soul of the US team for eight years and has led Washington DC United to two consecutive Major League Soccer titles.

well [in the past] and contributed so much to US soccer, he deserves the right for our conversation to remain private," Sampson said. He added 🦠 cepted Sampson's decision to play him in recent games at left-back rather than in midfield, he felt the player "did not embrace the decision.

"The national team must play as a unit and understand that," he said. Asked about Harkes' reaction when he told poor play and unspecified him he would not be going to France, Sampson said: "Enor-Sampson declined to go mous disappointment, But John realizes there are things in his game he needed to im-

experience in the English game with Sheffield Wednesday and Derby County, said he hoped "Out of respect for an in- Sampson would reconsider. belong on the team - if he is likely to be the new captain.



THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

Harkes, who has extensive "Ultimately, it is Steve Sampson's decision to make and I and give me that chance." Sampson, however, said it

was "doubtful" he would change his mind and suggested Harkes' place is likely to be taken by Chad Decring, who has played only six times for the United States but is performing well in the German Bundesliga with Wolfsburg, Another Bundesliga player

who is in Sampson's plans is David Regis, a 29-year-old Martinique-born Frenchman who is married to an American woman and is a defender with Karlsruhe. "He has not received his citizenship," Sampson said. "but we are very hopeful that he will be available

before we leave for France." The 37-year-old Thomas Dooley, who grew up in Gerrespect that," he said. "But I many as the son of an Ameriplan to prove to him that I can soldier he never knew, is

DANNY MADDIX, the

Queen's Park Rangers defender. has become the eighth English-born player to be called up to Jamaica's World Cup squad by the Brazilian-born coach. Rene Simoes, Maddix, who has Jamaican parents, is due to make his international debut this weekend in a fournation tournament in Iran.

BARCELONA, not the Spanish club but a side from Ecuador's largest city, Guayaquil, lost their gate receipts from this week's Libertadores Cup tie against Chile's Colo Colo - when they were robbed by a gang of men wearing replica team shirts. The amount taken was not specified, but the crowd was 55,000.



Hoddle's men in Marseilles on 15 June, are ready to call up a Brazillan-born player, José Clayton. The 23-yearold defender, who has played for Etoile Sportive du Sahel, one of Tunisia's top dubs, for five years, became a citizen of the north African country thanks to a Tunisian justice ministry ruling pubished on Monday. Henryk Kasperczak, the national coach, has confirmed that Clayton will be "called up for the next training session of the national team." Etoile Sportive are coached by a Brazilian, Santos, who has guided Clayton's career.



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Orient hit by League for three points

terday deducted three points by a Football League Commission for fielding suspended players. The Third Division club, who have a right of appeal against their punishment, were in 10th place with 62 points. They now drop to 12th, with Exeter and Scunthorpe climbing above them.

The Football League issued statement which read: "The club was found guilty of playing, in matches under the auspices of the Football League, players who were under suspension by the Football Association."

The Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson is to ask Glenn Hoddle to excuse Paul Gascoigne and Paul Merson from international duty against Portugal next week.

Both Boro players have been alled up for Wednesday's friendly at Wembley but could be back in action for the First Division promotion-chasers just 48 hours later when their club meet Port Vale. "I don't know what is in Glenn's mind and I'll contact him to see what his intentions are regarding Gazza and Merse," Robson said.

"England play on Wednesday and we play on Friday. There is no problem about them turning up to join the squad, they have the weekend off anyway. The Manchester United de-

might ask to leave anyway if he does not play more matches. Berg, who has sat on the

bench for most of the season, said despite considering himself of central defenders behind Ronny Johnsen, Gary Pallister is included.

LEYTON ORIENT were yes- and David May. If the club were successful in signing Jaap Stam from PSV Eindhoven, he would probably fall to fifth choice.

"I don't think United will hold on to five central defenders next season. If something does come of Stam's transfer then I'm sure players will be sold," Berg said.

Even though I want to stay with Manchester United I also need to play. Next season I have to play more than I have done this year. If the situation doesn't change maybe I will have to leave myself. I cannot sit on United's bench forever."

West Ham's Sieve Lomas and Stan Lazaridis have both extended their contracts with the east London club. Lomas, the club captain, has signed a seven-year agreement and the Australian international wing-back has put pen to paper on a five-year deal.

West Ham will open talks with. the French international goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, next week and offer him a contract for

Aston Villa have also moved to secure the futures of Lee Hendrie and Mark Bosnic. Villa may offer Hendrie, called into the England B squad earlier this week for next Tuesday's meeting with Russia, a seven-year contract while the Australian international goalkeeper will be offered a five-year deal. Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola

fender Henning Berg said he has been left out Italy's squad fears being sold next season and for the World Cup build-up game against Paraguay, Zola, whose goal helped Chelsea qualify for the final of the European Cup-Winners' Cup final on Thursday, now looks likely to be in top form he felt he was to miss out on this summer's rated just fourth on United's list World Cup in France. His club team-mate, Roberto Di Matteo,



المكناس الأصل

Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson (left) has urged his England players Paul Merson (right) and Paul Gasciogne to miss the internatinal against Portugal to concentrate on a League game against Port Vale

Gallacher in plea to **Ferguson**

By Alan Nixon

KEVIN GALLACHER is trying to persuade Duncan Ferguson to change his mind and partner him as Scotland's strike force at the World Cup.

The Blackburn Rovers forward said he has joined the former captain. Gary McAllister. in attempting to talk Ferguson round from getting married in Las Vegas rather than going to the finals in France.

Gallacher said: "Duncan is an ideal player for me, he is awesome in the air, not many centre halves can handle him. It would be perfect for me to be beside him; it would be like having Chris Sutton at Blackburn. He would also be an outlet for the rest of the team.

"We're not very well off for strikers. I've told him and Gary McAllister has also tried to put the message across that the players want him. The lads have told him to come back."

However, Gallacher is not certain his powers of persuasion will be enough to alter Ferguson's plans. "I think he has made his decision and I think he will stand by that in the end and not go to France." he added.

Ferguson has been in fine form for Everton recently and has also captained the Merseysiders. But he has not withdrawn his letter to the Scottish Football Association to say he no longer wanted to be considered for international duty.

Hearts are likely to included the veteran striker John Robertson in today's starting line-up against St Johnstone. The 33-year-old has been recalled from a loan spell at Dundee as a replacement for the suspended Jim Hamilton.

Rangers, who face Aberdeen tomorrow, lead the table on goal difference from Celtic. with Hearts four points adrift.

Darren Jackson looks likely to return to the Celtic starting line-up against Motherwell after lasting only 24 minutes of the Old Firm match. The Scotland striker was

forced to come off in the 2-0 defeat by Rangers after picking up

FRESH TECHNOLOGY

FRESH THINKING

FRESH PRICE

Weekend fixture guide TODAY

Football

Colchester 48 20 10 18 69 56 Scenborbogh 43 19 12 12 65 56 Bernet 45 19 12 12 59 47 Feterborbugh 43 18 12 15 62 45

caster (R)43 4 7 32 38 100 19

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

- Aberdeen v Rangers ... 37 Cellic v Motherwall - ...

First Division 41 Airdie v Morton 42 Dundee v Ayr Utd Hambon v Falkirk 43 St Mirren v Raith

44 String v Partick Second Division

Third Civision

TOMORROW

First Division

Brandood City v OPR (3.0)

45 East Fife v Clydebank.
45 Forter v Queen of the South
47 Langeton v Brechtin
48 Stenhousemult v Clyde.
49 Stenhousemult v Clyde.

Serwick v Queen's Park Dumbarton v Albion Rova's

East Stirling v Cowdenbeath.

FA Carling Premiership Cristal v Sheffeld Wednesday (30).

Nationwide Football League

Auto Windscreens Shield Final Ghatty Boumenouth (130) (Mindsby Statium)

Bell's Scottish League

Primier Division

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of ballparks the

New York Yankees have

played home games at

since 1903. The American

League baseball club are

currently displaced from

Yankee Stadium by a struc-

tural problem. They have

Played at Hilltop Park (751 Games), Wiedenmayer Park

(1). Polo Grounds (761).

Shea Stadium (160) and

Yankee Stadium (5,696).

38 Dunfamiline v Hibernian..... 39 Hearts v St Johnstone 40 Kilmarnock v Dundse Ust

9.0 cm/ess stated GM VALIXHALL CONFERENCE

Noval v Hereford

Nyman League Premier Dutwich v Borstem'n Welton & Hersham, Dutwich v Borham Wood: Enfield v Basingstoke;
Gravesend v Harrow Borough; Hendon v
Behop's Stortfort; Heybridge v Bromley; Purfeer v Histrin; St. Alberte v Carshalton; Sulton Urd v Kingstonien; Yeading v Dagenham
& Restondge, First Dutwision: Abrigoton
Town v Berkmansted; Aldershot v Stanes;
Berton Rovers v Romford; Belerica v Malesey; Bognor Regis v Grays; Cherbary v Worthrig; Croydon v Meldershead; Hengton v
Wernbley; Leyton Pennant v Thame;
Ubbridge v Leafmarhead; Whyteleads v Michingham, Second Division: Baratire Town
v Bracknell Rwn; Edgware Iown v Berstsad
Abbelte; Epham Town v Barings; Horsham
v Windsor & Etm; Hungerford Jown v Bedford Town; Leighton Iown v Carthwood v
Carvey Island; Tibury v Wivershoe Town
V Carvey Island; Tibury v Wivershoe Town
Town v Met Police, Third Division: Corntilen Casussis v Hornchurch; Dorking v Hamel
Hempstead; East Thurnock Urd v Carribeley Town; Epsam S. Breit v Lews; Flackwell Health v Clapton; Ford Urd v Ware;
Harlow Town v Croydon Atheist: Hertford
Town v Ting Town; Southall v Aneley
UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Atteston Town v Leigh Rhit; Bamber Bridge v
Gausety; Bishop Auddand v Emby; Blyn Spartars v Barrow; Bosson Lud v Colvyn By;
Friddey v Runcor; Gassborough v Marnis;
Lancaster v Hyde Urd; Winstord Urd v Spennymor; First Division; Ashtord Urd v Spennymor; First Division; Pores Green v Helesouth Town; Teston v Workington; Whithy Town
v Doyledsen; Witten Ablon v Budon.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Grat Harwood Town v Faredy Celtic v Granne;
Lancaster v Runeath; Fores Green v Helesouth Town; Teston v Workington; Whithy Town
v Hoston; Stocklad Division: Seething London;
Dorhester v Runeath; Fores Green v Helesouth Town; Teston v Workington; Whithy Town
v Hoston; Stocklad Premier Division:
Bory, Branspow v Stingbourne; Buten Ablon v Merthyr Tydfit; Crawfey v Bett;
Dorhester v Runeath; Fores Green v Helesouth Town; Faciley Lotting; Fisher
v Hasto

v Hassocks.

UHLSPORT United Counties League Premier Ohision: Bourne v Hobesch; Bucknighen v Stemford; Desborough v Long Buckby; Northampton Spericer v Boston Town: Speliding v Kempaton; Sewarts & Lloyds Corby v St Neots: Storfold v Milnies Blackstone Yaxley v Potton.

SCREWFOX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Brisington v Backwell Utd; Bristo Manor Farm v Bideloxd; Caine Town v Bridgwater Town; Carard Town v Treerton Town; Emoire v Chippenham Town; Mangotsteid Utd v Torrigton; Pauton Rovers v Barnstaple Town; Taunton Town v Melkstram Town; Westbury Utd v Bridgor.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST League Premier Division: Curzon Astion v Pricerng Town; Eccleshill Utd v Bridgor.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST League Premier Division: Curzon Astion v Pricerng Town; Eccleshill Utd v Bridgor.
Statistical Town v Lewraedge: Maitby v Armidol Town; North Ferriby United v Sendy United Ossett Town v Lewraedge: Maitby v Armidol Town; North Ferriby United v Deneby United Ossett Town v Portiefract.
Thackley v Seiby Town.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v Downton; BAT Sports v Romsey Town; Bemerton Heath Hartequire v Whitcharch Utd, Christicane v Andower; Cowes Sports v Brockenhurst East Cower Vice v Aerostructures; Portsmouth RN v Bournemouth; Wimborne Town v Newbury
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Bury Town v Great Yarmouth Town; V Diss Town; Borleston v Scham Town v Diss Town; Borleston v Scham Town; Cacton Town; Weston Utd, Palsenham Town v Diss Town; Borleston v Scham Town; Romer Warbows; Heistbad Town; Newmarket Town; Parketon v Lowestoft Town; Newmarket Town; Vorther Premier Town; Palson v Pelsat Villa; Powns v Presistore Whitensell v Bioswich Town; Polichury Utd v Stiffal Town; Vershore Town; Polichury Villa; Policas v Klapesselv v Firshore Town; Polichury Villa; Policas v Klapesselv v Hillestwen Hartes; Welchessleid v Chasedown; West Midlands Police v Knypesselv, Victore Willenhall Town v Kings

Norton Town.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Băngham Synthonia v Ourhem City; Crook Town v Northallerton; Dunston Federation v Easington; Guisborough Town v South Sheeks; Morpeth Town v Tow Law Town; Murton v Seatran Red Star, Pernith v Bilingham Town; HTM Newcestle v Jarnow Roofing; Shidon v Bedington Terriers; Stockton v Consett PRESS & HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clechnacuddin v Devernmete; For William v Peterhead; Fraserburgh v Wils, Academy; Fundy v Eigh City.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE First Division; Bellyclare v Lame; Cerrick v Bangor; Dungsmon Swifts v Limewady; Newry v Dedery

Dungarmon Swifts v Liffeedby; Newry v De-diery
WELSH CUP Semi-finate: Bangor City v Newtown (230) (at Rind); Barry Town v Con-neits Cusy (230) (at Newtown),
LEAGUE OF WALES: Caemarion Town v Rinyi (230); Caemars v Rhayader Town (230); Camass Bay v TNS Liensantificati (230); Commy v Porthmedog (230); Ebbw Vale v Abanystwyth (230; Haverfordwest v Inter Cable-Rei Cardiff (230)

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Firm Harps v UCD (730): Killenny City v Derry City (730); Sigo Rovers v Cork City (730). Rugby Union

3.0 unless stated
TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Final: Chestine v Commed (et Twickenham). Under-21 Final Curtoria Under-21
v East Midlands Under-21 (1230). v East Midlands Under-21 (1230).
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP One:
Goucester v Beth; Harlequirs v Leicester
(20): Northempton v Richmond; Sale v
Washe, Premiership Truc Bedond v Exeter,
Covertry v Fytie; London Scottish v Weterioc; Ontel v Retherham; Washefield v
Blackheatir; Wash Harlepool v Moseley.
JEWSON MATIONAL LEAGUE One: Liverpool St Helens v Lythey; Morley v Rugby;
Nawbury v London Welsh; Rosslyn Park v
Whartecasie; Worcester v Leeds (20) Two
North: Welsall v Elimingham/Solfvull
WELSH MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Di-

North: Makail v Elmingham/Sofful.
WELSH MATONAL LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardif v Bridgend (2:30); Lienell v Portypoid (2:30); Neath v Swensea (60); Newport v Ebole Valle (2:30) First Division: Abersen v Pumney (2:30); Aberillery v Backwood (2:30); Bonymaen v Cross Keys (2:30); Durward v Portypool (2:30); Maestey v Newtondge (2:30); Morthry v Caerphaly (2:30); Treordby v Llandovery (2:30); UWC (Cardif Inst) v South Walse Poice (2:30); TreNRENTS PREMERSHIP Division 3A: Grangemouth v Stewerts Mel FP (2:00), Division 3B: Gernothes v Glosgow Southern (3:0).

(30)
AIB LEAGUE Semi-final: Shennon v St.
Marys (337), Second Division play-off first
legt Buccaneers v Dungernon (230).
CLUB MATCHES: Nottingtam v Cheltenham: Westen-super-Mare v Gouzester OB
WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP Final:
Saracens v Wasps (1205) (at Havlequins).

FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT: France v Wates (10); England v Scotland (30) (# South-gate HC). MEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS (1030

IMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS (030 -60) A Division: Pool 1 (Aldershol); Pool 2 (Brocklands); Pool 3 (Hourslow): Pool 4 (Mottingham). B Division: Pool 5 (Brocklands); Pool 6 (Bude): Pool 7 (Durham University): Pool 8 (RN Portsmouth).
WOMEN'S INTER LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Liverpool Serion v St Albans (80); Hampton-harden v Dutworth (1049; West Winsey v Liverpool Serion (1230); Exmouth v Hampton-harden (215): St Albans v West Winsey (40); Dulmich v Exmouth (645) (at Miston (439mes).

Speedway

INTERNATIONAL: Engend Under 21 v Lukol Russia (70) (at Stoke). ELITE LEAGUE: Eastbourns v Wolverhampton. SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Coventry v Oxford PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Berwick v Hull (70) Other sports

BOXING (Nymex Arena, Manchester): WBO teatherweight tyle: Naseem Hamed (rodder, Sheffled) v Willhardo Viscouse (Pustro Roo), WBO hearyweight tale: Herbie Hide Norwich Indidn'y Demon Reed (LSA) WBO cruserweight tale: Carl Thompson v Chris Eubenh.

SNOCKER (Crucibie, Sheffield): Em-bassy World Championship TOMORROW Football

2.0 unless stated
UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Worksop
v Gretna (130.00.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Ood Down v Entore; Twerton v Westbury, Tomyton v McKaram
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Division:
Berticke Vid v Softia Somente 20. Hinddey Utd v Solfrull Borough (20), FAI HARP LAGER National League Premier Division: Shamrock Rovers v St Patrick's Athletic (315).

Rugby League LUB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: Huddensield v St Helens (330): London v Warrington (525): Selford v Hai (30); Wigan v Haiffal, (30); Fest Division: Hurslet v Haif RR (330); Keynley v Wonee (30), Rocholde v Whitehsen (30); Switton v Featharstone (30): Wakelield v Devisbury (330); Second Division: Barrow v Batley (30); Lancestree Lync v Doncaster (30); York v Workington (630):

Rugby Union
ALLIED DUNBAR Premierahip One: Bristol

**Lordon Irsh (30), Saracer's v Newcaste (30)

**TENNENTS VELVET CUP Semi-finals: Cur
tie v Kelso (30); Glasgow Hawls v Borough
mult (30) muir (30) TENNENTS VELVET BOWL Semi-finala. Camoustie HSPP v Strainmore (30): Peritrone

Campuste HSPP v Strattmore (SU): Partistre v Rose Hg/ (SU)
TENNENTS VELVET SHIELD Sami-finale: Sellon, v Ayr (SU): Stewarthy v Bervick (SU), AIB LEAGUE Sami-final: Cernyowen v Young (Aunster (1330)) Hockey

FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT: Scriand v Wales (LI); England v France (SD) (all Southpare HC).

MEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS (930–50), A Division: Pool 1 (Aldershot); Pool 2 (Broklands); Pool 3 (Hourshot); Pool 4 (Normalizer); B Division: Pool 5 (Both); Pool 7 (Durham Line); Pool 8 (RN Porsmouth)

MOMEN'S NATER | LEGILE PLAYAPES: WOMEN'S INTER LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Crost-over games (TIE), T2D) (at Millon Keynes) Basketball

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS Tolrd leg: Newcastle Eagles v. Lon-don Towers (630): Ermangharn Bullets v. Derby Storm (630): Greater London Leop-ards v Manchester Glants (630): Speedway

Spectures: National Challenge: Newport v Luton Fisses (230).

SPEDWAY STAR CUP: Oxford v Bette Vue, (70).

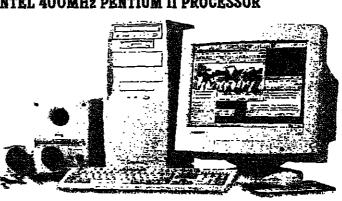
PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Gasgow v Berwick (530); Navicaside v Edinburgh (530).

COMPERPICE LEAGUE CHALLENGE: Middenal v Paterborough (330).

Other sports SNOOKER (Crucible, Sheffield): Embassy World Championship.

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Gross aims to avoid repeat of history

Can Tottenham avoid relegation, which they last suffered more than 20 years ago? Glenn Moore reports



WHITE HART LANE, the last home game of the season. Tottenham win but go down regardless. There is a pitch invasion, there

are banners and chants about the manager. Nothing unusual in that, except the protests are in his support. He may have led Spurs to relegation in his first season but the fans want him to stay.

An unimaginable scenario, except in Christian Gross's dreams? No. This was the reaction the last time Spurs went down, in 1977, Glenn Hoddle, Pat Jennings and Steve Perryman were in the team. Spurs had conceded 92 goals in the season, including eight at Derby and five at Manchester City and West Ham, yet Keith Burkinshaw was being lauded.

Should the unthinkable happen and Spurs not only lose at Barnsley today, but also go on to lose their Premiership status, do not expect a repeat. The game has moved on as the rewards have risen so have the penalties for failure and neither directors, fans not players show the patience of the past.

This week has been typical of the season with Darren Anderton, David Howells and Chris Armstrong all apparently expressing their frustration with the management. At various times this season a string of players have shown discontent in public or private and one insider this week estimated that 13 of the current squad are unhappy at the club.

This is not the sort of spirit a team engaged in a relegation battle wants. As Peter Taylor, another member of the 1977 side, said earlier this season: "We learned no club has a divine right to a place in the top division. We also learned we had to stick together. The present side have the quality to get out of trouble but they have to recover their confidence and realise the need to stick together and fight as a team. That means running back to retrieve lost situations when they might not otherwise have done."

It does not help that as many as 11 of the squad have their minds on the World Cup and several significant players also know they are unlikely to be at the club next season. to be Anfield-bound, a number of major players have escape clauses in their contracts and others, such as Howells, Justin Edinburgh and Jose Dominguez, are unlikely to stay if ful to check the most significant of Campbell's, with the player but. though team captain, he refused to be interviewed.

Throughout all the dissent and defeats Gross, who was a promising midfielder with Lausanne when Spurs were last relegated, has re-



tained a dignified resolve. It was no different on Thursday as the press gathered at the club's plush new Chigwell training complex (now virtually finished after almost as many problems as the team) to pick over the latest entrails.

Gross, to his credit, never ducks a question though he can provide an obtuse answer - sometimes, but not always, because of the language barrier. Unlike some managers he is prepared to explain tactical decisions and does not belittle questioners.

Of Armstrong, who stormed off when substituted against Coventry on Monday, he said: "I can understand if players are not happy when they are taken off but I was not happy with his performance. There aren't prob-Jürgen Klinsmann is definitely off. lems between us. He is very ambi-Nicola Berti has yet to be offered a tious and I like ambitious players like contract. Sol Campbell is rumoured him, Darren Anderton and David Howells.

Anderton is unhappy at not start-

ing and being overlooked as substitute when Moussa Saib was injured early in Monday's match. "I have to Gross does. It would have been help- be careful with Anderton," said Gross. "He has had a lot of injury these probable departures, that of problems, he has to be patient. I could not bring him on for Saib as it was at the start of the game. He is fit to play but not for 90 minutes. I do not want, after any game this season, to say he is injured again. He had a full game in the reserves this week but there is a big difference between that

and the Premiership, especially the out and his continued selection fight it will be at Barnsley."

Of Howells, who is unhappy at being left out and is not even in the 18 for today's game, Gross said: "He also had injury problems so I brought in Berti, who is more or less the same player." Gross has also preferred Colin Calderwood, a regular in Scotland's near-impregnable defence. to Howells in midfield. "He gives me more security," explained Gross. though Tottenham fans feel the Scot would be better played in defence in place of Ramon Vega.

Vega not only chips in with important goals but is unswervingly loyal to his compatriot manager. Unfortunately. Vega is responsible for conceding more goals than he scores. Unused to playing in a back four, he has regularly been caught responsible for Spurs' situation. In-

FULL INTERNATIONALS

Colin Calderwood Scotland

Ramon VegaSwitzerland

...Norway

..England

.England

..England

.....ltaly

.Denmark

Frode Grodes

John Scales

Sol Campbell

Gary Mabbutt

Nicola Berti ...

Allan Nielsen...

smacks of favouritism, which never helps team spirit. Not that Vega is a had player: witness his performance for Switzerland against an England attack of Alan Shearer and Michael Owen. But then he had Stuttgart's Murat Yakin sweeping behind him,

at Tottenham there is just space.

Playing Vega also means leaving out John Scales and Gary Mabbutt. who, with Howells, is seen as providing the fighting heart of the club. Then there is the playing of Allan Nielsen at left-back. This is a result of selling the promising Jamie Clapham, failing to buy Andy Hinchcliffe and falling out with Justin Edinburgh and Dean Austin, leaving no cover when Clive Wilson was injured.

Not that Gross is even primarily

Tottenham: More caps than points (and that's just Klinsmann)

Darren Anderton ...

David Ginola

Les Ferdinand

Jürgen KlinsmannGermany

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Espen Baardsen .. Norway U-21

Moussa Saib....

Andy Sinton

deed, since he took over in November results have improved, with 23 points coming from 19 games comarrival. The real problems go back much further, with many fans dating Scholar's ill-fated attempt to commercialise the club in the mid-1980s - how ironic it will be if Scholar goes up with Nottingham Forest as Tottenham go down.

Though Spurs still run out to the lyrics "Tottenham are the greatest team the world has ever seen", the reality is different. They have not won the championship since 1961 and have only won one trophy, the 1991 FA Cup, in 14 years. They have pretensions to be among the European élite yet they bave only played one season in Europe in a dozen years:

England Ruel Fox England B

England NON-INTERNATIONALS

Dean Austin

Clive Wilson

David Howells

Stephen Clemence

Jose DominguezPortugal Chris Armstrong England B

. England Justin Edinburgh

....France

Stephen Carr Ireland U-21 Garry Brady

... Algeria Steffen Iversen Norway U-21:

at a return to the glory, glory, years pared to 13 points from 15 before his of the early 60s but were each unscandal. The last few years have been the current struggles back to Irving a struggle as Ossie Ardiles and Gerty Francis failed, in differing ways. to balance the fans' desire for stylish football with an equally insistent Francis resigned, confidence, sapped by poor results, was low.

Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, was in the frame as Francis' replacement. A former Spurs player and disciple of Bill Nicholson, he had the right combination of a feel for the club and a proven record of organizing teams.

However, the example of Arsenal and Chelsea, where foreign managers had brought glamour and The following season Spurs were had steered Borussia Dortmund to wobble, they regained élite status. European Cup triumph, they plucked Gross from the backwater lie ahead. As Arsenal chase a second of Swiss football. He was quickly given Klinsmann, billed as a saviour but historic brace are now so distant as actually a millstone, but could not get to be ancient history. How curious permission to hire Fritz Schmid, his confidante and fitness trainer.

season but there must be doubts mum wage. But then, it is not all about his remaining even if Spurs stay about money, as Barnsley, who were up. Alan Sugar, who was selling in the old Fourth Division the last cheap hi-fi systems in east London time Spurs went down, hope to when Tottenham were last relegat- show today.

The reigns of Burkinshaw, David _ ed, would be keen to avoid having Pleat and Terry Venables all hinted to appoint yet another manager, his fifth in eight years, yet there is also incertainty about his continued. done by boardroom wrangling or commitment. He has often talked about stepping aside if he is not successful and may soon do so to allow his son, Daniel, to take over. This could open the door to either Kinnear or Raddy Antic, a former prodemand for success. By the time tege of David Pleat, Spurs' Director of Football, who is soon to finish a successful spell at Atletico Madrid.

Gross' fate would surely be sealed by relegation even if, as in 1977, the fault is not all his. Then the previous manager, Terry Neill, a former Arsenal player whose Spurs team was unadventurous, was blamed by fans for a relegation which ended 27 years in the top flight.

success, swayed the club and, after never out of the three automatic proa rebuttal from Ottmar Hitzfeld, who motion places and, despite a late

Whatever happens, changes must double the glory, glory days of Spurs' that one of the game's supposedly wealthy glamour clubs has not won Gross speaks confidently of next the title since the days of the maxi-

Money makes its mark on Welsh game

LIKE every season past and from a tiny village on the northwinners and losers.

It has yet to reveal, of biggest prize of all, but among bered positively from 1997/98 ference champions Maceles-Two: Notts County, one of the easy as cracking an egg". only teams to have secured unbeaten at home with one to tionwide; and Dundee, runaway leaders of the Scottish First Division and invincible anywhere but Dens Park. But the boot is very much

on the other foot for Crystal Palace, who have not won at gin to get the picture. Selhurst Park; for Hibernian, caster, who were Vauxhall Conference-bound by Christ-League of Wales.

Cemaes Bay's goals against Doncaster look championship material - 147 and nine respectively - and it is as certain as Peter Reid swearing again

every season future, this one ern tip of Anglesey will be playwill throw up its fair share of ing their football in the Cymru Alliance league next season alongside the likes of Cefn course, the winners of the Druids and Mold Alexandra.

Two weeks ago they were those who will be remem- thrashed 12-0 by leaders Barry Town; then Newtown and so far are: last season's Con- Bangor City rubbed salt in the wound by beating them 11-1 field, unbeaten as yet at their and 6-0 over Easter. A spec-Moss Rose ground and head- tator described breaching Ceing for promotion to Division maes Bay's defence as "as Those who disparagingly

promotion in March: Halifax. consider Welsh football to be a contradiction in terms might play and heading for the Na- not be surprised, but you have to feel sympathy for Cemacs Bay's plight. Imagine Blackburn without Jack Walker (and his money) or Fulham without Mohammed Al Faved's fortune, and you be-

Because Cemaes Bay, aimwho have failed to win away ing to consolidate last season's from Easter Road: for Don-mid-table position and going along quite nicely, suddenly had the pitch pulled from unmas; and for Cemaes Bay (or der their feet when chairman Cemaes Ynys Mon to be ex- Joe Davis decided to take his act) who play, just about, in the money and run: in this case, to league rivals Cwmbran Town.

Unable to pay the wages of and points for tally makes even their semi-professional players. Cemaes Bay have had to call upon local amateurs, hence the humiliating scorelines. But what is even more ter-final stage (the semi-finals this season that this tiny club gatting for them is that Cwm-will be contested today), and



BLAIR

ON A SEASON TO SWIFTLY FORGET FOR CEMAES BAY

bran do not really represent a significantly better investment: not like, for instance, pulling out of Manchester City to invest in United.

Sure, they are currently fourth in the league, and played in this season's Cup-Winners' Cup as beaten Welsh Cup finalists (double winners Barry Town were in the European Cup), but the nearest they got to the likes of Chelsea and Stuttgart was in the bag for the draw (they were beaten 5-1 and

8-0 by National Bucharest). This season they went out of the Weish Cup at the quarwho were - Barry Town. Newtown, Conwy United and Banbecause they were the four topplaced league sides in 1996/97.

which the three Welsh Nacompeted - has been a reworth at least £100,000 (which in Welsh football represents a small fortune) to the winners. it will return as the FAW Premier Cup next season when the number of Welsh League clubs will be increased to eight.

The semi-final second legs are on Tuesday when Wrex- sorship to the tune of ham will defend a 2-0 lead at Newtown and Merthyr will try search by Neville Southall, to peg back four goals at Cardiff. But whether Merthyr will finish the season as winners or losers depends on more than

the outcome of their cup run. Favourites to win the Dr Martens Premier, they face on the condition that the club the prospect of being denied promotion to the Vauxhall Conference: having formed a er. Total Network Solutions, in new company at the end of last the same way that Inter and take on debts of around £250,000, Merthyr fail short of any is needed, of how loudly the standards set by a "new" money talks in Welsh football.

this inaugural season of the company has to have traded for FAW Invitation Cup. Those a full calendar year to take part,

What started off as "rather provocative discussions" begor City - were selected tween the club and the Conference have apparently eased to the point at which Merthyr Nevertheless, this Cup-for are confident of reaching an agreement but it is not the tionwide League clubs plus first time the club have had to Merthyr Tydfil of the Dr fight their corner flag. How-Martens Premier Division also ever, according to League of Wales secretary John Deakin, sounding success. Heavily there is no longer any anifunded by BBC Wales and mosity regarding the choice of Merthyr and fellow Welsh "exiles" Colwyn Bay and Newport to opt out of Wales.

Originally the concern was that Uefa would not recognise the League; having allayed that fear, the League is now concerned with finding spon-£150,000, and is helped in its who now reads the Financial Times to "gen up" on Wales' wealthiest businesses.

One of those - a business in Oswestry - put money into League club Llansantffraid took on the company name. So Llansantffraid have become, ter Cable-Tel. It is proof, as if

We can all combat the violence

a Fulham fan at Gillingham, in the 1970s. what should football supyears has ebbed, is not rising again. But if it is, there will be calls for more police inside our movements and harsber punishment for hooligans. One trusts that ID cards will not be disinterred, but the call to bring back fences (still common on the Continent) will not remain dormant if more officials are attacked on the model of incidents at Oakwell and Fratton Park:

These ideas will not work. but they are easy to prescribe, they suit the outlook of the Government, and they will be seen to assist the campaign for the 2006 World Cup. If supporters come up with no alternatives, they will prevail by default.

One reason football violence becomes possible is that the perpetrators think they do it on behalf of a much take part, but give tacit agreement to the violence. The largest group, of course, disapprove entirely, but rarely do anything about it.

In 1996, there were fears the Oxford v Swindon derby. atmosphere that you might mutual contempt. This was life,

AFTER the fatal stabbing of have thought was left behind more than a moral lecture.

bad-mouth the opposing lence a public issue. town. It was a green light to the respective hooligans.

terparts, who shared these FAN'S EYE

VIEW NO 250 FIGHTING-FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM

BY ED HORTON fears - and acted on them. only people who can really inplayers' influence is limited and nobody listens to sanctisometimes fans listen to oth-

Together, we embarked on

er fans.

On this occasion, the local ined the fixture. It made porters do now? We hope the media made things worse by football frightening and untide of violence, which for 10 encouraging a slanging match pleasant, it ruined our repuover the relative merits of Ox- tation in the public eye, and ford and Swindon. Regional the real victims were sup-TV gave representatives of to-porters. As ordinary fans, grounds, more restriction on cal papers a minute each to we made opposition to vio-

In the event, there was practically no violence. I can't At the time I co-edited an prove that our initiative was Oxford fanzine. I was con- the reason: Oxford won 3-0. tacted by my Swindon coun- so perhaps our hooligans were sated, theirs demorabsed. But I believe we had an effect. Of course we did not con-

vince violent individuals to become followers of Gandhi. But we may have influenced their periphery, their cheerleaders, by making them think, making them unsure whether it was right to fight for Oxford.

•

Supporters can combat They understood that the violence where the police and courts cannot, with their fluence football supporters own initiatives. This is the are other supporters. The wedge with which we can split larger group, who do not police are distrusted, the the violent from the wouldbe violent. There can be no going back, either to viomonious politicians. But lence or to spikes and fences. Supporters can pre-empt

of widespread violence at press releases, media ap- awful to contemplate, and we The alternatives are too pearances and fanzine articles stand to lose too much. Last This is a grim fixture, with an expressing opposition to the month, a young man lost his



the French squad this week, retains his place in goal, Blackburn have major injury problems. Roy Hodgson, experiencing his first crisis since returning to English football last summer, has watched his team dip from genuine title contenders to being in real danger of missing out on a place in Europe altogether. Chris Sutton has recovered from a foot injury and will definitely return alongside kevin Gallacher, at the expense of Martin Dahlin. But Damien Duff is doubtful, as is Tim Sherwood. Defenders Callum Davidson, Tore Pedersen and Marion Broomes have all joined Tim Flowers on the long-term

TOMORROW



son's Uefa Cup.

Chelsea v Sheff Wed

Leading scorer

Gianluca Vialli is likely to make several changes to his side for Sheffield

Wednesday's visit to Stamford Bridge tomorrow. Dimitri k'hanne has recovered from a linee injury and will replace Ed de Goey in goal, while Dan Petrescu may be fit to return after a bout of flu. Roberto di Matteo is available again after missing the European Cup Win-

ners' Cup semi-final second leg victory through suspension, but Dennis Wise may rest his toe and thigh problems. David Lee could again replace Franck Leboeuf at the heart of defence and Vialli may rest Gustavo Poyet after his first start for six months on Thursday. Frank Sindair, who has had a groin problem, may be added to the squad. Peter Atherton returns to captain Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow after completing a two-match ban over the Easter break. Midfielder Graham Hyde is also available for manager Ron Atkinson's squad. Atkinson, however, is without Macedonian international Goce Sedloski for the rest of the season after the central defender underwent surgery this week to remove knee cartilage. Wednesday have won one of the last five Premiership games.



Coventry v Liverpool

Leading scorer

Coventry have problems in midfield for tomorrow's game with Liverpool. George Boateng and Gavin Strachan are both injured, while Paul Telfer is suspended. Boateng picked up a dead leg against Aston Villa last weekend and manager Gordon Strachan said: "It's a bad one. There was bleeding into the muscle and he has a less than 50-50 chance of playing." Strachan Inn twisted his knee in the Easter Monday game against Tottenham and is also doubtful. He has already withdrawn from the Scotland Under-21 squad for next week's match against Finland. Their absences could mean Paul Williams, Willie Boland and Martin Johansen will move into the side. Coventry have

Everpool have major doubts over Steve McI-lanaman, Steve Harkness and youngster David Thompson. All three have ankle injuries and face late fitness tests, with Harliness the most doubtful. Thompson, who scored the late winner on Honday against Crystal Palace after coming on as substitute, needed a painfulling injection before that match and the club are reluctant for him to have another

lost one game in their last 14 in all competitions.

Bournemouth plan a Wembley celebration

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE at- bury in 1996), 76,000 (Birm- strength of support for the club tendances have been booming ingham v Carlisle in 1995), this season, fuelled particularly by gates at Sunderland, Mid-field in 1994), 35,000 (Port Valc dlesbrough and Nottingham v Stockport in 1993), 48,000 Forest. However, the biggest crowd to watch two Nationwide teams in action so far this season will not be watching a First Division match.

pected to watch two Second Division teams when they meet tomorrow. Bournemouth and cure position in mid-table. Grimsby Town face each other in the Auto Windscreens Shield tion is a triumph for a club final at Wembley.

Staging the final at Wembley has been the making of the competition. In the 1990s the final has attracted crowds of 45,000 33,000 (Rotherham v Shrews-

48,000 (Swansea v Hudders-(Stoke v Stockport in 1992), 58,000 (Birmingham v Tranmere in 1991) and 48,000 (Tran-

mere v Bristol Rovers in 1990). Tomorrow's match is a break A crowd up to 65,000 is ex- for Grimsby in their fight to win promotion via the play-offs, while Bournemouth are in a se-

Bournemouth's participawhich was on the brink of closure last season. The fans rallied round to save them and up to 40,000 are expected to follow them to Wembley. While their (Colchester v. Carlisle last year), average gate is less than 5,000, tomorrow's crowd shows the

in the town.

The Bournemouth manager. Mel Machin, has one particularly must decide whether to recall his French centre-back, Franck Rolling, who scored the winning goal in the semi-final, or stick with Eddie Howe and Ian Cox. The winger Jason Brissett is competing with Mark Stein, on loan from Chelsea, for a place in attack alongside Steve Fletcher.

One former Grinsby player will be watching tomorrow's action with particular interest. The Everton winger John Oster has been involved in a Premicrship relegation battle as his former colleagues have prepared for Wembley.

Oster said: "It is ironic. I've

Mark Pierson looks ahead to tomorrow's Auto Windscreens Shield final and the tough decision to make. He weekend Nationwide League programme

> gone from being relegated into only a small club and they re up another relegation battle. And Grimsby are heading for Wernbley. I suppose it's bad luck on my part. They're going for promotion and heading for Wembley and I am in a relegation battle. But I wouldn't change it.

"I'm delighted for them. They've done well since I left. They've slipped up recently, losing two on the trot. But with the Wembley surface being flat it will suit their game and they'll

the world because they're

against the likes of Fulham who have got money to burn, whereas Grimsby have to do it the hard way."

Grimsby have had a reputation as giant-killers in previous competitions as West Ham, Leicester, Sheffield Wednesday and Everton will all testify. But Oster admits that the Auto Windscreens is the ideal vehicle for his former team-mates to display their talents.

Oster said: "They normally "I wish them all the success have a couple of upsets like West Ham, Leicester and Ever-

couple of upsets but that's it. The Auto Windscreens gives the smaller clubs a chance of get-

ting to Wembley because if there wasn't a competition like that you'd never see a Second or Third Division team at Wembley. Realistically the FA and Coca-Cola Cups are out of reach and this gives those teams a chance of playing at Wembley which is a dream for any player."

Today's Nationwide League action sees battle resume for promotion from the First Division. Nottingham Forest will go to Stockport County knowing that victory will guarantee their return to the Premiership.

Forest have not won in any of their nine trips to Edgeley Park,

ton in the past. But they never managing just three draws. They seem to take it any further - a are set to name an unchanged side, with Andy Johnson expected to start ahead of Geoff Thomas in central midfield. The Stockport manager,

Gary Megson, is likely to keep faith with the side he heavily criticised after the Easter Monday defeat at Tranmere. Second-placed Sunderland

are likely to welcome back their central defender Jody Craddock at home to Crewe. He has been out for a month with a hamstring strain. The manager, Peter Reid, is expected to leave out Darren Holloway or Chris Makin. Alex Rae, unable to win back his place after suspension. is also pushing for a recall in midfield

Charlton are the team in the

change the whole thing round."

entertain relegation-threatened Portsmouth. There is a doubt over midfielder Paul Mortimer (hamstring), but the central defender Richard Rufus is expected to be fit after a virus. The striker Mark Bright is looking for a return to the squad having recovered from a foot injury.

The Jamaican internationals Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson are both available for Portsmouth. They were due to miss the game due to international duty, but they will now link up with the Jamaican squad next week. Alan McLoughlin is battling to recover from a virus, while Mihalis Vlahos is expected to play despite still suffering the effects of an ankle

Leading scorer Barnes, Shearer 7

Manchester United will be without Ryan Giggs and Bonn,

Johnsen for Newcastle's visit today, Both Giggs (harnstring) and

Johnsen (ankle ligaments) picked up injuries in the 1-1 draw

against Everpool on Good Enday but both could be fit for the

trip to Crystal Palace on Monday week. Ale: Ferguson knows his

side must win their four remaining games to stand any realistic

chance of retaining their title. He said: "You never know, Arsenal

may just lose a game when nobody expects them to and that can

Kenny Dalglish has only one member of his squad, centre-haif

Darren Peacock, definitely out of contention. The defender has

been out for two weeks with a calf strain and is no closer to a

return. Steve Howey and Steve Watson are unlikely to start

today, but both have nearly recovered from injuries. Alessandro,

Southampton v A Villa

Leading scores

Defender Ken Monkou is likely to be recalled to Southampton's start-

ing line-up today. Monkou is likely to return alongside Richard Dry-

den berause Norwegian defender Claus Lundekvam is ruled out by

a one-match ban. England under-21 stn/er Kevin Davies is injured

again after having six stitches in a knee injury following last week-

end's 1-0 defeat against Wimbledon while midfielder David Hugh-

es is struggling to overcome a leg injury. The Saints, outside contenders

for a Uefa Cup place a month ago, now still need three points to

Aston Villa midfielder Mark Draper is hoping for a recall as John

Gregory's side travel to the Dell. Draper was left on the bench for

last Saturday's 2-1 win at Coventry but could return if Gregory opts

to strengthen his midfield at the expense of stoker Savo Milosevic.

However, with Villa having won six of their seven Premiership games

under his control. Gregory will keep any changes to a minimum as

West Ham v Blackburn

Leading scorer

be mathematically certain of avoiding relegation.

February 1972, and the one before that was in 1950.

FA Carling Premiership team news

Arsenal v Wimbledon

Teenager Matthew Upson is likely to make his fifth Premiership start of the season as centre-backs Martin Keown and Steve Bould are both suspended for today's match. Lee Dixon is back in the squadbut is doubtful to start the game due to a continuing harmstring problem. Gilles Grimandi is also out, so Rémi Garde could continue at full-back, lan Wright is no nearer a come back, so Nicolas Anelka.

should continue up front alongside Dennis Bergkamp. The Gunners are looking for their seventh consecutive Premiership win. Wimbledon's new captain Robbie Earle is out of today's game, after being injured during the Dons' 1-0 win at Southampton last Saturday. He was sent to hospital for x-rays, which revealed that he had suffered a broken toe which may well keep him out for the remainder of the season and also jeopardise his World Cup ambitions with Jamaica. Earle's absence is a setback for Wimbledon, who have come away from their last nine trips to Highbury undefeated. The Dons need a draw or victory to secure their Premiership place for



Barnsley v Tottenham

Barnsley striker Ashley Ward is manager Danny Wilson's major doubt for today's relegation six-pointer at Oakwell. The Tykes have won nine of the 10 games in which Ward has scored, but he is struggling with a thigh strain sustained in Monday's 2-1 defeat at Newcastle. Fellow forward Jan-Age Fjortoft is ready to play with bruised ribs after he collided with a post as he scored the equaliser at St James' Park: Ales Krizan (hamstring) and Peter Markstedt (neck) are out. while Darren Shendan, Georgi Hiristov, Jovo Bosancic and Chris Morgan are all suspended.

Les Ferdinand is likely to win a place in the starting line-up for Tottenham after proving his fitness to coach Chiristian Gross. The England striker is likely to replace Chris Armstrong and partner lürgen Klinsmann in attack. Darren Anderton will be on the bench again, even though Moussa Saib is ruled out, as Gross does not yet feel the England midfielder is fully match fit. Tottenham have won one move into the relegation zone in place of their hosts.



بيود .

: 25

Bolton v Leeds

Colin Todd has selection problems today, nowhere more so than in defence, where long-term casualties Gerry Taggart, Mike Whitlow and Robbie Elliott could be joined by left-back Hasney Aljofree. He suffered a leg injury in the 4-0 defeat at Derby last Monday so Jimmy Phillips could be recalled, although central defender Mark Fish is fit after a suspected ankle problem. Scott Sellars (back) is missing, while striker Dean Holdsworth (harnstring) is out. Todd is hoping that on-loan Bob Taylor will be declared fit to partner Nathan Blake up front after treatment this week. _

Leeds will be without Portuguese midfielder Bruno Ribeiro for the rest of the season after he broke down in training on Thursday with a recurrence of his groin injury. Ribeiro, highly influential since last summer's move from Vitoria Setubal, will undergo surgery next week. David Robertson is back in the squad for the first time since a cartilage operation two months ago, but is unlikely to take any part today. Centre-back Lucas Radebe is fit after being carried off - and sent off — with a thigh injury during last week's defeat at Everton.



C Palace v Derby

Crystal Palace midfielder Jamie Fullarton, who joined the dub under the Bosman ruling following spells in Scotland and France, suffered a badly gashed leg during Palace's 2-1 defeat against Liverpool on Monday and he required several stitches. Fullarton is still hoping to make the Palace team ahead of his Scotland B call-up for next week. Full-back Jamie Smith, left out of Palace's side at Liverpool due to new player manager Attilio Lombardo's squad rotation system, is hoping to return to the starting line-up. Palace are still looking for their first Premiership home win of the season.

Stefano Eranio is out of Derby County squad for today's match at Selhurst Pank Eranio, who came off with a groin injury in the 4-0 win against Bolton on Monday has not recovered and will be out until May because of suspension. Derby's captain, Igor Stimac, returns from shoulder and back injuries and Lee Carsley has recovered from illness. Mart Poom and Dean Sturnidge have a chest infection and heavy cold respectively. Jacob Laursen (knee) and Darryi Powell (ankle) are definitely out.



Everton v Leicester

Leading scorer Last season: |-]

Everton have Nicky Barmby and teenager Danny Cadamarten both serving one-match bans and unavailable today. Both Norwegian goalkeeper Thomas Myhre and England Youth defender Michael Ball have missed training this week with flu, but both should be fit to play. Dave Watson is still out with a knee problem. Everton's form has improved in recent weeks, and apart from losing 4-1 at home to Aston Villa three weeks ago, have won two and drawn two in their last five matches. They last lost at home to Leicester in 1985.

Neil Lennon will lose his ever-present record for Leicester this season today because he is serving a one-match suspension. Garry Parker replaces the Northern Ireland international in midfield, while defender Steve Walsh comes in for Spencer Prior (ribs). Ian Marshall could return to face his old club at the expense of Graham Fenton, while another ex-Goodison Park player, Tony Cottee, will be on the bench. Leicester manager Martin O'Neill believes that his side can still qualify for a Uefa Cup place. A win today appears tobe the only result that would keep that aim viable.

... And statistics

How early baths are flooding the Premiership

Whether it is because players are becoming more indisciplined, referees more card-happy or the rules more strict, one fact is clear; sendings-off in the Premiership are running at record levels this season. Dismissals have been recorded at a rate of one in every six matches during the current campaign, which represents an increase of more than 100 per cent on last season. The highest proportion of dismissals in a season came two years ago, when 57 red cards were shown,

compared with 56 so far this season. The statistics dispel one or two myths about red cards. Most notably, the suggestion that "10 men can be more difficult to beat than 11" is shown to be far from true. Ten men have gone on to Win games only five times this season - and on each occasion the

winners were already leading when the red card was shown. Fitteen other teams who had players dismissed held on for draws, while Sheffield Wednesday are the only team who saw their fortunes improve after having a player sent off. Andy Booth earned Wednesday a draw with a goal five minutes from time at Leicester after Delan Stefanovic had been sent off in the first half.

One other popular myth disproved by the figures is that Wirnbledon are a dirty team. Not only have Joe Kinnear's team had only one player dismissed this season (the one blemish was Ben Thatcher's second-minute dismissal at home to West Ham in December), but nobody has been sent off playing against them. Only one Wimbledon match this season has therefore leatured a red card - lewer than any other learn.

Bolton matches have seen 12 dismissals, while Manchester United are the only team not to have been shown a red card in Premiership action.



Season. Red cards Games Red cards % **建**

Ten-man winners this season Dismissals in backets 30 Aug Chelsea 4 (Sinclair 80 mins) Southampton 2
35 Sales (Normal 76 mins)

31 March Bolton & Asserta 4 (Kaowin 53 mins) When dismissals happen Where dismissals happen 21 31-15 mis 13 Second half: 35 46-60 mins: 7 Players away from home:

C 5 mins 12 16-30 mins: 7 76-90 mins: 16 Premiership red cards 1997-98

Own	players	Opponed
shown	red card	skown red ca
Bolto	: 5 : : :	7
Coventry	5	2
Everion	3	100 3 00
Blackburn	4	5
West Ham	1.0	4
Leeds	4	2
thansey.		
Arsenal	3	3
210622	<u>\-</u> 5	3 3 3
Southampton	3 .	2
4.00		

Who hands out the most red cards 8 Uriah Rennie 4 David Elleray

Bolton's Nathan Blake (left) clashes with Manchester United's Gary Pallister. Both players were sent off, contributing to the total of 12 players shown red cards in Bolton Premiership matches this season

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

:			. Home							Awa	y		Remaining matches	
	Pi	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	A	vertianing matches
d Man Uta	-34	Ø.	+39,	12.	. 3 -	2	38;	. 3	8.	- 4.	5	76	17	Today Newtoste (H), 27 Apr Chate (A), 4 May Leeds (H); 10 May Bender (A)
2 Arsenal	32	66	+28	12	2	2	33	10	7	7	2	23	18	Today Worbledon (H), 25 Apr Barreley (A), 29 Apr Derrey (H), 2 May Event, n (H), 6 May Evenpool (A), 18 May A Villa (A)
3. Liverpool	33	58:	+2	4	7.7	4-	:33	- 16	5	8.	3	K	<u>x</u> c	Tomorrow Covertry (A), 25 Apr. Chelma (A), 2 May West Part. (H), 6 May Assenal (H): 10 May Denby (A)
4 Chelsea	33	54	+25	10	2	3	30	12	7	1	10	33	26	Tomorrow Shaff Wed (H), 25 Apr Liverpool (H), 23 Apr Backburn (H), 3 Kay Mewsante (A), 10 May Botton (H)
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9 Aston Villa	34	48		.8.	3.	. 6	. 24	21	6.	.3	8	18.	. 22	Today Scuramonon(A): 25 Aur Bolton (H), 2 May Such Wed IA), 10 May Arsend (A)
10 Leicester	33	45	+6	5	Ģ	3	20	Б	6	3	7	22	3]	Today center (A), 26 Apr Derb. (A), 2º Apr Newcate (H), 2 May Samsler (H); 10 May Web Ham (A)
d Covenity	33	45	0.	7	- 7 ₇	- 2	23	16	1	.5	8	F.	-23	Temporow Licepool (Hy, 25 Apr. Leets (A), 22 Apr. Windhedon (H), 2 May Blackston (H), 10 May Eventum (A).
12 Southampton	34	44	-4	10	t	6	27	19	3	÷	10	17	79	Today Azion V63 (Fi. 25 Apr West Ham (A), 2 May Derby -Fit 10 May Tottenham (A)
The Wimbledon	1633	412	443	١,	6.	1,	: l6\	49.4	.5	5	, 5	15	5	Today Arrena (A). 25 Apr Backbarn (A). 29 Apr Decary (A): 2 Mol Toperham (H). 10 May Least (A).
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16 Everton	34	38	-9	7	3	6	22	22	2	8	â	15	25	Today Lectaer (n), 25 Apr. areli Wed (H), 2 May Arrenal (A), 10 May Coventry (H)
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l8 Bolton	34	34	-22	6	8	3	13	17	I	5	1	I3	36	Today Leeds (m), as Agr Auton vas (m), I May C Palste (H): 10 May Orehea (A).
10 Barnstey	74	34	4 0	47	3.	6.	24	30.	3	40	Η.	7	46	Today Totterham (H), 23 Apr Arsensi (H), 2 May Coulester (A), 12 May Manchester (Introd (H))
	T	57	30	_	4		_	-50				~	32	Today Derby Ht. 17 Apr Man Urd (H).

Saturday 18 April 1998

United form has Ferguson on the rails

By Trevor Haylett

WE SHOULD presumably discount the theory that Alex Ferguson joined the horse-racing fraternity because having seen Arsenal creep up on the rails to threaten Manchester United's championship lead he pected hurdles.

Similarly the view that he was persuaded into the "Sport of Kings" by the Manchester cess a month ago and was look- goals conceded in 15 games. ing for a quick way to win back his money can be dismissed as mischievous speculation.

We should take Ferguson at his word when he says he has invested in prime horse flesh as a mean of releasing some of the pressure that can become intolerable at this stage of the season. On Thursday he was a winner for the first time when his twovear-old Queensland Star finished ahead of the field in the 4.45 at Newmarket. But will the United manager come out on top in the race that really matters to him? The more you look at current form, and particularly the Easter outings, the more the Premiership appears destined for the Highbury stable.

Only a month ago United had a seemingly unassailable advantage vet such has been the ground made up by Arsenal's remorseless sprint in the final

gle point separating them, the Gunners are at home to Wimbledon while Ferguson's team play host to Arsenal's FA Cup final opponents. Newcastle.

It is the London derby which holds most intrigue. Following their formidable display at Blackburn on Monday, Arsenal wanted a pastime that was free are now odds-on favourites to of twists and turns and unex- deny Old Trafford its fifth crown in six years though Wimbledon have been unbeaten at Highbury in their last nine visits and have the best defenbookmaker who prematurely sive record away from home in paid out on a United title suc- the Premiership, with just 15

> In 1989 Arsenal's first championship under George Graham looked to have be scuppered by Wimbledon's 2-2 draw away from home before an unbelievable sequence of events saw the Gunners awarded their prize after a heart-stopping climax at Anfield. Then, as now, their final fixtures included Wimbledon, Derby and Liverpool.

After Newcastle, United visit Selhurst Park to take on Crystal Palace (a fixture which has not stretched many away teams this season). They then host Leeds and finish in Yorkshire with a game at Barnsley.

The challenge Ferguson has set his side is to win all four. "Arsenal are in the driving seat at the moment and we are waiting for them to make a mistake," he said, "That is all we can do.

"The most important thing is for us to win our games alfurlong that the two leaders though it's always very difficult

World Cup ticket numbers

terday announced the telewishing to buy the final 110,000 from 07,00 BST until 19,00 on tickets for this summer's

In response to criticisms been made available to ordinary fans overseas, the organising committee announced last week that it would make extra tickets available by phone from next

The telephone numbers to (calls from Europe); 08-03-00-19-98 (calls from within

phone numbers for supporters colonies). Lines will be open weekdays and from 08.00 BST

until 19.00 on Saturday 2 May. There are tickets available that not enough tickets had for all first and second round matches, except the opening game between Brazil and Scotland on 10 June. Tickets will be available on a first-come firstserved basis and can be paid for by credit card.

Each buyer will be allowed call are 00-33-1-49-87-53-54 to purchase up to four tickets per game, with an overall limit of 16 tickets per person.

could be swapping places by at this stage of the season be-teatime tonight. With only a sincause teams are fighting hard for various reasons."

Arsenal have both Steve Bould and Martin Keown suspended and Gilles Grimandi, a natural defensive replacement. is injured. Arsène Wenger may decide to switch Emmanuel Petit to the back line with Stephen Hughes coming into midfield or he could start with Matthew Upson - 19 today alongside Tony Adams.

The Highbury manager said: "Against Blackburn we played a passing game and against Wimbledon we must fight physically and cope with long balls. That is why the championship is so difficult as the games are so different. We must forget about Blackburn and focus just on Wimbledon.

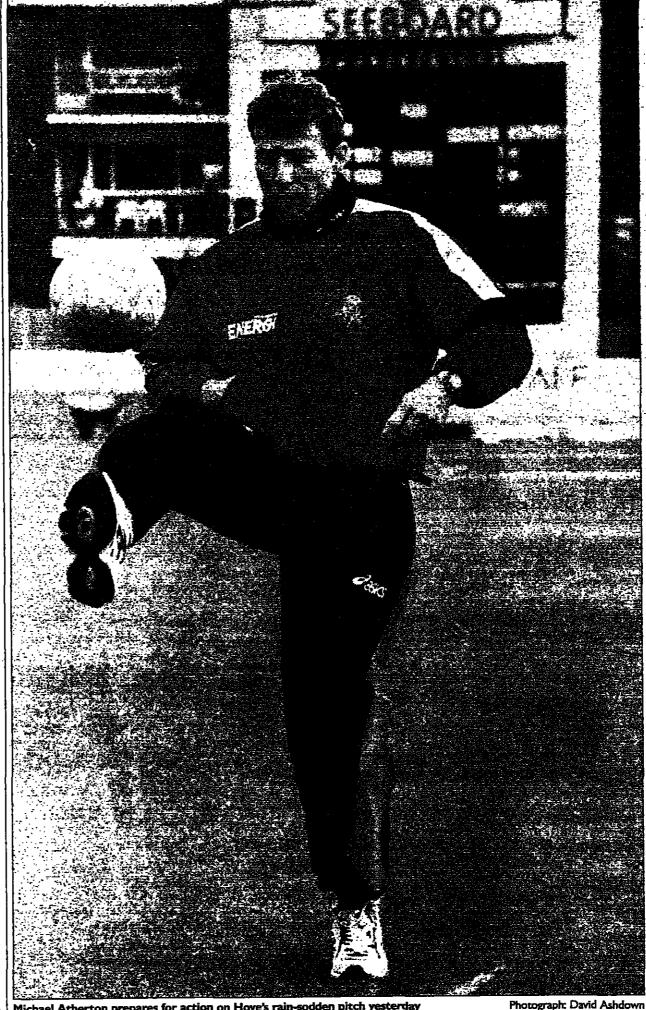
We were on a high at Blackburn which was one of the moments when we reached what we want to do but my job is to convince everyone we must battle very hard tomorrow and if we are not mentally prepared we will be disappointed. We have the title in our hands but we are not over confident."

Beneath the top two, the battle for the Uefa Cup places was given a shot in the arm by Chelsea's remarkable victory over Vicenza on Thursday that means they will be contesting the Cup-Winners' Cup final. Should they beat Stuttgart in Stockholm on 13 May, the Stamford Bridge club will re-enter the same competition next season releasing the Uefa Cup place that was theirs after winning the Coca-Cola Cup.

· It means that seventh place could be a European berth for WORLD CUP organisers yes- France); and 01-49-87-53-54 next season and add spice to this between West Ham in eighth and Blackburn, who are two places and two points better off. John Hartson will be anxious to sign off for the Hammers in

the fashion he began the scason - with goals and more goals rather than the way be has ended it, on a flurry of cards, red and yellow, that means he will miss the last four games through suspension. Blackburn could welcome

back their second choice goalkeeper John Filan, who broke an arm in August.



ELEVEN PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 14

DOWN

An egret, it could be, in

Girl with county slant.

Polo activities? (12)

Drink group's splitting

Clean with vacuum (5)

Measure appeared as

To whom the inner

15 Leaving nothing in

tion up (9)

ets (7)

Designate State line (4)

man's of special interest

gallery, boxing collec-

16 After time fixes brack-

slipping away (7)

19 Deceived defence is

21 Vehicle to run goods

22 Modest about piano

transcript (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thurs-

the Irist for current standards to be extended by receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crosword, P.O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El 4 SBL Please use the box number and postcode and give your myn postcode, Last week's winners: J Edwards, Christchurch; D Scotchbrook, Herne Bay: P&K Burns, Illord; V Johns, Braunton; C Moore,

mime (7)

Seconds ticking over,

broken, split by cunning

pool (9)

vocally (7)

decreed (7)

James and Evans hold off first salvo

By Derek Hodgson at Bristoi

Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN, the Britannic Assurance champions, had to wait until 2pm to start the defence of their title, then lost the toss and had to bat on a surface of unknown properties. The cloud had lifted but the wind stayed fierce and cold all day and Couriney Walsh, fresh from a Trinidad heatwave was said, by a local, to have been "lim-

Gloucestershire did at least those traditional English skills

of seam and swing.
It happened that the first pitch from the groundsman, David Bridle, was both reasonably firm and fair. Mike Smith needs South-western zephyrs for his swing, not a sleetthreatening blow, while Walsh. with the wind was mostly careclimate.

Accordingly Steve James, with deft turns to leg, and Alun Evans, hitting straighter, managed an assured opening stand opening assault and coping with the second string of Jon Lewis ring, and Alleyne might have.

to bowl around the wicket to Evans.

The young bastman tried a flick to leg to a ball slanting across him, and it flew high off the blade to second slip. The next ball, the first of the next over, was quick enough to surprise James, who was caught behind the wicket. Most of the several hundred brave souls watching suddenly found unexpected warmth.

Walsh, who was looking stiffer by the minute, returned for his second spell and had his first delivery cut to the boundary by an exceedingly confident looking Matthew Maynard. The champions were just beginning to pick up momentum again when, with the last ball before tea, Walsh totally confounded their captain with a change of

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, attended with an obvious interest in Glamorgan (But just who was he looking at? Maynard? James?). He is also a believer in Smith's talents at Test level and Alleyne, as has been said before, is an allrounder of misleading capacity. He does have all the credentials required of a oneday player and the World Cup is looming up.

It was Alleyne, bowling with constant changes of pace, who trapped Tony Cottey after tea. to using only half a run but he was still managing to pitch de-

This was a day of Cool

Atherton and Lara both draw blanks

Cricket

By Derrick Whyte

THE CARIBBEAN IT Was DOL Brian Lara and Michael Atherion, opposing captains in the warter Test series between the West Indies and England, retained to action vesterday as the Britannic Assurance County Championship season started after a week of overcast skies, torrential rain and sodden pitches.

If the two men had looked forward to the occasion with less than overwhelming enthusizusm, their mood could hardly have been improved aftertheir cameo appearances. Both men were dismissed without scoring.

Atherion, playing for Lancashire against Sussex at Hove on a day ruined by rain, fell leg before to Jason Lewry. Laras meanwhile, lasted only eight balls at Edghaston for Warwickshire at home to Durham - the county he hit for a world record 501 not out on the same ground in 1994 - before he was caught by Martin Speight off the bowling of John Wood.

Lara found himself upstaged by his colleague. Neil Smith. who struck the opening championship century of the campaign. Smith, who reached his century in 137 minutes off only. 11 bails, raised Warwickshire's hopes of a sizeable first-innings total after they had been 24 for 3 following the departures of Lara, Dominic Ostlet and Nick Knight.

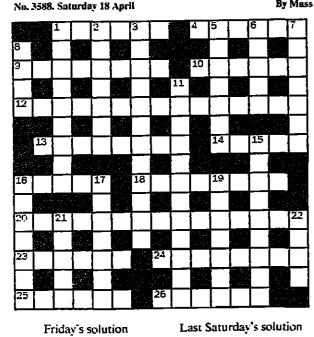
David Byas also scored a first-day century as Yorkshare built a good total against Semerset at Headingley. Yorkshirerecovered well after a shally start caused by Anthony Mc Grath's dismissal for a duck with only one run on the board.

While Atherton failed, has vice-captain in the Caribbean, Nasser Hussain, made 68 as Essex built a useful total against orcestershire at New Ro

After a rainy week there was a surprisingly large amount of cricket played yesterday. with Canterbury and the Oval the only grounds suffering washouts.

More cricket, page 19

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD ACROSS Birds loudly migrating. 1



but not far (6) Sound from bee trapped 2 in flat (6)

Animal, creature giving East European a turn 10 Slate, to a degree, pro-

vides top cover (6) 12 A situation leading to one's dismissal? (3,6,6)

13 Man is frustrated in dull post (8)

Network introducing Ibsen's last work (5) 16 Pours for elevenses, as

they say? (5) 18 Home fruit reinforced with a French glut (8) 20 Score during play (10.5) 23 I grew a tangled creeper

24 Spirit with fish, then bit of fruit (8) 25 Clean drunk (6)

26 Tie sporting black crest

bering up in a duvet". have their overseas professionai present; Glamorgan are stili awaiting Waqar's arrival. Yet it was no day for either of these great fast bowlers, rather one for

ful to fire in no more than one ball an over, minimising the risk of stretch and strain in this

of 64 in 27 overs, seeing off the By that stage, Walsh was down and Mark Alleyne. Both sur- liveries short enough for Adrivived leg-before appeals, al- an Dale to win byes from a ball beit from the field and from the that flew off his chest. been beginning to wish he had Britannic and Hardy Assuropted to bat when he switched ance.

CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORD, EST 1876

BREWING FOR ENGLAND

n Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canery Wharf, London E (4 5DL, and printed at Micror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Warfor,

Regarded to a new quipes with the Post Office

col-

YOUR MONEY Personal finance, motoring and property

How to finger card fraudsters

With fraud costing credit card issuers £96m a year, firms are looking at

hi-tech alternatives to signatures.

Paul Slade reports

imagine trying to pay for your purchase with a credit card. You proffer the card at the till, Staff behind the counter swipe it through a machine and then ask to carry out a fingerprint check on you. Or demand that you look into another machine for your iris to be "read".

Sounds like Big Brother gone mad? The two examples above are the latest techniques being tested as part of the long-running battle to combat plastic card fraud, which cost card companies £96m in 1996. Retailers still rely mostly on a basic signature to establish that card users are who they say they are. But all the while, they are devising more sophisticated systems to combat fraudsters.

Fingerprinting of credit and debit cardholders has even been given a seal of approval by the authors of a new Home Office report, issued last month.

Michael Levi, professor of criminology at Cardiff University and one of the authors of the report, suggests all cards should carry the owner's fingerprints, which can then be checked against records held at the till.

This, he argues, would not only guard against fraud, but would help the police. "Irisscans and voice-prints are less useful for search and arrest. since they are not included in

There is no technical problem in encoding fingerprints on a microchip attached to the card. There are 110,000 chip cards already being tested in Northampton and Dunfermline. The chips do the same job as the magnetic strip which cards already carry, but can hold a lot more information:

Collecting customers' fingerprints to check the cards

أشكلت جوجع



Illustration: Jonathan Anstee

to its head office cash ma-We are all endlessly perverse chine. The society hopes to perin our attitudes towards checks suade some 1.000 customers to-

> "We'll scan their iris and put it into a database. Once you're on the database, instead of keying in your PIN number, you can

have your iris recognised." This technology too has its limits. Anyone over six foot six

volunteer for the trial. Nation-

wide's Mark Hamilton says:

camera's range, and people with thick glasses may find the machine cannot recognise them. It may be that the humble

signature is not such a bad method after all. Royal Bank of Scotland claims to have prevented fraudulent transactions worth over £1.5m in the past five years simply by adding the customer's signature to the card before it is posted out.

Pension plea

Pension funds this week called for an overhaul of the tax system affecting them. claiming simpler rules on how much may be invested would save between £1bn and £2bn. This money could then be used to boost retirement incomes, said the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF).

The NAPF wants to see existing limits scrapped on the maximum 15 per cent of salary that can be paid into a pension fund, It also wants the upper earnings cap of £87,600 to be abolished. It claims its proposals would be tax-neutral, because pensions could still be taxed when they are paid as income.

Property rise

House prices rose by 0.6 per cent in March, compared with no change the previous month. The rise brings to 5 per cent the annual rate of house price inflation, according to Halifax. The figures masked disparities among regions: prices in the past year rose by 12.4 per cent in London and the South-east, but fell by up to I per cent in Yorkshire, Humberside and Scotland.

Gone for a song

Once upon a time you were probably too stoned out of your head to notice it. Meanwhile, canny collectors who took home psychedelic posters from 1960s gigs may be sitting on a mint. John Windsor tells all. Page 3

Offshore assets

Working abroad for a few years can be one of the most exciting periods in anyone's life. It also helps if someone is there to help with all the relocation work, as Robert Liebman

tightrope between security and gets annoyed if their card is worry about is whether the perused fraudulently, but even usability. There is little point in son presenting the card is the

Davies of the Association of Pay-

ment Clearing Systems calls the

chip cards an investment in the

future, and says fingerprints

may be included one day. "We

have the capacity there if it's needed," he says. His guess is

that the first nationwide chip

cards will be issued later this year.

Card issuers must walk a

erty issues that implies - may

emerging markets at Barclays,

says: "Fingerprinting is one of

the options we are considering.

What we have at the moment is

an authentication mechanism in

the chip to prove the authenticity

of the card. The next thing to

Steve Collins, director of

prove more of a challenge.

One of the bank professionals had heard that, in South Africa,

whispered. This seemed unlikely, if only

Africa House confirms that the genuine urban myth.

leads to the real owner often

being rejected when he tries to

use it. Experiments with iris-

scans at cash machines have so

far failed to crack this problem.

of Scotland says: "With the iris

ones, until very recently, the re-

jection rate for legitimate card-

holders was too high. Everyone

Erica Harper of Royal Bank

Of course, simply because a story "and they cut out his eyes".

Fingerprinting on cards looks sure to prove a valuable new source of gory tales for the saloon bar raconteur. Already we have the urban-myth.

of a tourist visiting Latin America who is mugged and awakes in an alleyto find one of his kidneys has been: removed. It is a short step from :: there to tales of cardholders being robbed, not only of their cards

THUMBS UP FOR VERIFICATION TALES?

but also of the body parts needed to

spoke to in preparing this piece told me such a story in all seriousness. She collecting your unemployment benefit depends on identifying yourself with a thumb print. Fraudsters, she said, had found a way round this. "They were cutting off people's thumbs," she

because officials are likely to notice if you produce a bloody thumb to stamp the relevant documentation. South

country's benefit system does not use fingerprints, so what we have here is a

wrongly rejected."

like these. Mr Collins says:

"The research that's been done

on fingerprints indicates that,

if you don't get the occasional

rejection, people don't think it's

doing anything." The latest

generation of eve-scanning

technology will soon be tested

in Swindon, where Nationwide

is untrue does not mean it will not be told. How long before people here are telling one another about a friend of a friend who had his ATM card stolen -

Breaking the chains around housebuyers

lieve, you throttle gazumping, the nasty practice whereby buyers are elbowed aside by other buyers bearing more lucre. The Law-Society has introduced a series of tentative anti-gazumping proposals for consideration by the Government Homebuying Review Group.

The proposals comprise flexible financing, a stockholding company and a vendor-prepared house MOT Flexible financing enables selfers to finance a new property without first selling their current premises. Stockholding companies would help prevent a chain breaking by temporarily buying properties. The pack includes a draft contract, search and a log-book of repairs and basic house information to be passed on by the vendor to the prospective buyer.

The proposals aim "to make every conveyancing transaction independent of all others". In the Law Society's example, the sellers, with a £40,000 mortgage; are flogging an £80,000 house. They want to buy: a property for £110,000 and assume a-£70,000 mortgage. The total - temporary. - mortgage required is £110,000.

Because the borrower only needs the extra amount until the old property is sold, the extra costs of this approach would not be too high, the Law Society argues. The cost of temporarily having two debts would be spread over the term of the new mortgage. "A capitalised stim would not significantly increase the cost of the £70,000 mortgage, and a

Speed up property sales and, some be- A set of proposals to speed up housebuying is being proposed by the Law Society, writes Robert Liebman

increase the annual cost at all. The repayment period could be extended." The Law Society wants the Govern-

ment to offer tax incentives to the stockholding companies buying the surplus properties. But it claims this would be selffinancing because, in return, there would be an increase in property transactions. leading to more stamp duty being paid.

Kenneth Byass, chairman of the Law Society's property and commercial services committee, says: "Although further work is needed to free the residential property market from chains, initial Law Society analysis has clearly shown it could be achieved."

But according to chartered surveyor Malcolm Hollis, the Law Society's proposals could cost homebuyers considerably more. "Somebody buys your name" for you and subsequently sells it, and at both levels somebody is making money." he says. These stockholding companies have personnel and other costs "all of which are being paid for out of the reduced amount you'll get for your home".

Mr Hollis is far from convinced that, by availing themselves of the stockholding company, individual links in the chain can independently speed things up. He says: "It would work if everyone accepted the brokerage process because, in effect, it is analogous mortgage on a repayment basis need not to buying a used motor car. You still have

want to buy needing to move out. which means you have to bridge and encourage them to go. It is a case of everyone doing it. It won't be successful if only one or two in the chain do it."

North London estate agent Joanna Haydon-Knowell welcomes "anything that speeds up the process", but warns these proposals contain many niggly bits. "Stockholding organisations could easily mean that some vendors will not get the best prices," she says. "If these companies sell on the properties using only tied agents, sellers may lose out."

Ms Haydon-Knowell observes that even a modest additional cost can have a big impact: "Most sellers are trading up, paying more than they are selling for. A differential of a few thousand pounds could make the difference in terms of what they really want to buy, or their budget for decorating and repairs."

She notes that "from going on to the market to completion, most sales take more than three months" - the period of time for which searches are legally valid. In any event, "most purchasers will be wary of a survey done by the vendor". She also foresees scepticism from the banks and building societies.

Solicitors also have doubts. Bob Hall, of Baker & McKenzie, believes that "the flexible finance idea is too timid, and the vendor information pack does not go far enough". The Law Society's example works "only because the prices mentioned are feasible. You have a more difficult problem if, let us say, a purchaser already has a high mortgage on an existing property. The problem is the cost of finding the solution, and I don't think tinkering with flexible finance or stockholding is actually going to solve it".

Mr Hall wonders that the Law Society didn't emphasise lock-out agreements, where a deal to huy a home means the vendor removes it from the market, and he thinks that "the state could even require vendors, if they breach the agreement, to pay the purchaser's aborted costs.

He adds: "There must be a sufficient number of purchasers to enable insurance companies to offer policies so that, for a premium, if a purchaser can't find a buyer within a certain time period, the insurer will pay a monthly sum in respect of additional mortgage costs."

As for unrealistic buvers wanting properties they clearly cannot afford. Mr Hall adds: "I don't think we should get into state-backed arrangements which somehow take the risk out of purchasing property. It is not the state's role to remove commercial pressure and the realities of buying a property." Mr Hollis concedes that the proposals "could speed up the process but only if people were prepared to pay for the privilege. These sums would be hard to come by, and I can't see people willingly spending it".

Thought for the day



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Buying a house could not be easier

NIC CICUTTI

I sold a home once, to a couple of first-time buyers while I was living in rented accommodation. So the effect of the dreaded "chain", where one's transaction is dependent on the fortunes of myriad other buyers and vendors, was not too great on not be too keen on offering mortgages to cover both the But others tell me that cost of the new home and the

the psychological effect of a chain breaking down is not to be downplayed. So I'm generally in favour of anything which cuts extra trauma for homebuyers.

Yet somehow, I get the feeling this week's Law Society proposal on how to avoid such traumas (detailed on our front page), is not the answer to the problem. Probably, Law Society chiefs must have felt that unless they could come up with something clever on this subject, the credibility of lawyers as probably the biggest earners in the entire househunting process would be shot to

In fact, their proposals feel more like the product of one of those late-night, alcohol-fuelled attempts to solve the world's ills. Usually, as now, the cold light of day reveals these big ideas for what they really are.

The problem, as the experts in our own piece explain, is that one of the suggestions the Law Society believes is the best way forward - stockholding companies that buy up your home if private buyers drop out or don't even materialise - depends on everyone in the chain adopting the same method.

It means sellers probably having to accept a significantly lower price for their the administration costs (and < ally do appear in this section.

the profits) of these firms. I'm not convinced many buyers would accept this option, particularly at a time of fast-rising house price inflation. Under such conditions, gazumping rules and chains break. Meanwhile, in times of financial crises, lenders will

existing loan on the old one until it is sold. It is unlikely that the Government would want to give stockholding companies the tax breaks urged by the Law Society. All in all, this is a mishmash of ideas which, even if enacted, will

only have a limited effect on

transaction times and costs.

So what is the alternative? To be honest, I don't think there is much of a solution. The reality is that even lockout agreements, whereby houses are taken off the market once an offer is accepted, or forcing buyers (and sellers) to pay for aborted purchase costs, would not be that effective. In this last instance, it is likely people would become far more litigious, claiming all sorts of excuses prevented a transaction from being completed. Ultimately, the reality for anyone wishing to enter the home ownership stakes is that there is pain alongside the ecstasy in-

And finally, congratulations to Edmund Tirbutt, one of our contributors, who won the British Insurance & Investment Brokers' Association award for Journalist of the Year. He also took first prize in the consumer broadsheet category for a story which appeared in this paper properties, in order to fund last year. The best writers re-

volved. Half-baked solutions

do little to prevent that.

MONEY MAKEOVER

Disability needn't handicap your retirement

Name: Stephen Brazier Age: 51

Occupation: Local government officer The problem: Stephen is about to take early retirement after having recently been registered as blind. His concerns are to maximise his family's income in retirement, both by using his existing investments and a lump sum he will receive on leaving work.

The advice: By making full use of various state benefits, investing some of his retirement money in a range of relatively safe corporate-bond personal equity plans (PEPs) this year, Individual Savings Accounts next year, plus "distribution bonds". Stephen should be able to improve his family finances.

Stephen Brazier says that he is a natural planner. He has been planning his retirement for some years, during which time the primary objective has been to save aggressively. With a joint annual income of £50,000-plus, no mortgage and relatively low overheads, Stephen and his wife Carol have salted away enough to enable them both to feel financially secure.

This is important for Stephen, who has recently been registered as blind and, as a result, is about to take ill-health retirement. Carol, who also works in local government, is not planning to give up work for the time being.

Stephen expects an annual pension of around £17,000, considerably less than his current £40,000 salary, but is confident the family can manage. Any entitlement to state benefits would put them in the "comfort zone", he feels. The adviser: Graham Bates is chairman at Bates & Partners, a leading independent financial advice firm with branches nationwide (0113 295 5955). The advice: Stephen should apply for the disability living allowance, which is available in two parts. A care allowance pays a weekly amount based on three different bands - £13.16, £35.85 and £51.30 - and a mobility allowance, which

pays a weekly sum of either £13.60 or £35.85. These benefits are paid free of tax up to a maximum age of 65.

Although the disability living allowance is not means tested, any amount for which Stephen is eligible has to be determined by a benefits officer and is based on an assessment of the level of care required.

In addition, Stephen could apply for incapacity benefit, available up to the age of 65. Again, incapacity benefit is not means tested, although payments are taxable at your highest rate. National Insurance contributions are credited for you up to the age of 65 and this was one of Stephen's concerns, to ensure his eligibility for a full state pension. During the first 28 weeks of a claim, incapacity benefit is £48.80 a week. In weeks 29 to 52, it increases to £57.70 and after 12 months, to £64.70. As Stephen has a dependent daughter, he may also be able to claim a small additional amount in respect of her.

Next, we should look at his and Carol's existing investments. They each have "roll-over" Tessas, with £18,000 jointly invested in Birmingham Midshires. This means the Braziers can also expect to receive a windfall bonus in due course as Midshires is taken over, possibly by Halifax. Other deposit-based investments include £14,000 in total in Carol's name with Nationwide (postal account) and Woolwich. Perhaps part of this cash could be invested elsewhere.

PEPs have featured strongly in Stephen and Carol's financial planning. In all, they have five different PEPs, with a total initial investment of some £27,000. The first PEP was in a Save & Prosper managed fund, which Stephen doesn't feel has performed well. Gartmore Select Opportunities, a European unit trust, has achieved top quartile performance over one, three and five years. It is an excellent holding for long-term capital growth.

Another of Stephen's European fund selections, Morgan Grenfell



Stephen and Carole Brazier could be in for a windfall

European Growth, has not performed with a solid record. Carol plumped for well recently. With little sign of real im- the Fleming Smaller Companies Trust, provement, consideration needs to be for which the timing looks to be given to switching this to an alternative reasonably good. These should both be PEP. Transfers can be carried out without affecting normal annual PEP allowances. For the last tax year they

opted for investment trust PEPs and

Stephen invested £6,000 in the Hen-

retained with the aim of achieving longterm capital appreciation.

Stephen is expecting a capital sum of around £50,000 on retirement. Of this, £12,000 is to be used to maximise derson Witan: a huge international trust this final year's PEP allowances.

Stephen has voiced concern about becoming too heavily exposed to equities. One option would be to invest in corporate-bond PEPs, which tend to be less volatile.

Stephen would also like to set aside £14,000 in the new-style Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) for himself and Carol when this new savings vehicle is launched in April 1999. Up to £7,000 can be invested in the first year of each ISA, following which the limit reduces to £5,000. However, it would be imprudent to make specific recommendations so far in advance.

Although Stephen is concerned about short-term price movements as the market continues to reach new record highs, it is important that he does not forget the main objective of share-based investment, which is to achieve long-term capital growth.

To help lower the overall risk of the Braziers' investment portfolio, they should consider a "distribution fund" where, typically, the manager will invest in a combination of blue chip equities and fixed-interest securities. A with-profits bond would also provide a good anchor to the portfolio.

Stephen and Carol benefited in 1997 from free shares in Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich. They should hold on to these while the banking sector continues to drive the stock market's rise.

A further consideration is the education of Stephen's daughter from his first marriage, which will cost around £12,000 over the next four years. This capital must be accessible, safe and not subject to day-to-day volatility. Safe and exciting is hard to achieve but premium bonds might be worth considering. Winnings are tax free and the capital is available within seven days. Who knows, they might just hit the jackpot.

Finally, Stephen has had a bit of a gamble of his own - investing £1,000 in five Japanese guitars. Hardly a standard investment but Stephen confesses that playing his guitar is a touch more interesting than playing the marke |

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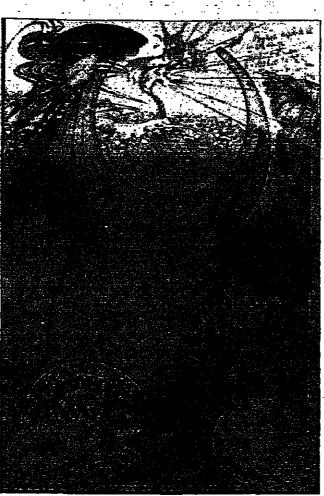
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LSD: New Wave posters from San Francisco are coming under the hammer for up to £1,200

Rock art on a roll

New Wave rock concert posters from San Francisco - the latest rock-art investment collectable - are about to surge in price. The punky music may not be new. But the art is. Psychedelia has been superseded by brash new graphics that are a distinctive blend of comic-book curtoon. Hollywood film poster and in-ver-face punk.

Posters by the rising New Wave star Alan Forbes, 29, retailed for \$20 six months ago. Now, fresh off the silk-screen presses in the basement of ArtRock, the world's biggest distributor of rock n'roll art, on the seedy side of San Francisco, the price is \$200. Forbes hand-letters and prints the posters in limited editions of 250 or so, applying up to 11 different-coloured layers of ink. Under "black light" (infra-red) they glow up, seeming to acquire three dimensions - a vestige of psychedelia.

In the American rock industry, New Wave posters have become a currency. Of an edition of 250, the concert promoter and the band usually get 10-20 per cent each, instead of cash, in lieu of logo royalties. The rest are sold by the publisher. The few that are displayed to advertise the gig (newspaper ads do the rest) are usually locked in window displays in record shops.

Squabbling over who should get posters has reached such a pitch that Mark Arminski, another ArtRock artist, is being simultaneously sued by the Dave Matthews Band and Phish for allegedly selling some of the posters he designed for them.

In London, Bonhams Ted Owen is offering

Collect to Invest: never mind the pharmacology, catch the New Wave ahead of the

crowd, says John Windsor

15 of Forbes's signed artists' proofs, mostly estimated £150-£250, in his second annual sale of rock posters and original rock art, High Art, on 5 May. He has put an estimate of £200-£300 on Forbes's 11-colour It All Went South, advertising an exhibition of his in Los Angeles earlier this year.

The handful of New Wave posters that appeared in Bonhams' first High Art sale, last September, must have mystified British bidders. Only one of nine posters by Frank Kozik, an established New Wave name, found a buyer. Two posters by the artist Coop, top New Waver before Forbes came on the scene, offered in separate lots, were unsold. A third lot by Coop - eight posters - made £483 (estimate £200-£300). The only Forbes lot. 11 posters, fetched £230 (estimate £140-£200). Whoever bought them is unlikely to buy Forbes as cheaply again. Kozik is back in next month's sale - top estimate £800-£1,000.

The V&A is laving in New Wave posters and also British posters by the Hapshash and the Michael English. They earned a permanent sion Street, San Francisco, California 94103, USA

place in rock history by designing posters for the UFO Club at the Saville Theatre in Tottenham Court Road, where Pink Floyd and Traffic had their beginnings - and where Jimi Hendrix staged his first big British gig in October 1967. The Hapshash poster for Hendrix's début fetched £863 at Bonhams in September against

an optimistic estimate of £800-£1.200. Hapshash poster prices are likely to go on rising (there are 20 or so, estimated around £200, in Bonhams' May sale). In fact, psychedelic posters from both sides of the Atlantic seem under-valued. First printings of historic hippie posters by such big-name artists as Rick Griffin, Victor Moscoso and Stanley Mouse can still he bought at Bonhams for under £200. The bands included the

Grateful Dead, the Doors and Jefferson Airplane. As the debate over legalisation of drugs intensifies, the first psychedelic revival seems all the more imminent. But never mind the pharmacology, look at the art. Cash in on New Wave before the rest do, but for long-term investment put your trust in the freaky world of LSD.

Classic guide to poster editions: "A Collector's Guide to the Numbered Dance Posters, Created For Bill Graham and the Family Dog, 1966-1973" by Eric King, Berkeley: Svuha Press 1980. High An auction, 5 May (11am), Bonhams, Montpelier Street. Coloured Coat combo - Nigel Waymouth and London SW7 (0171-393 3900). ArRock, 115 Mis-

INTERNET INVESTOR

Ten years ago the one pound note ceased to be legal tender, replaced by the one pound coin which, according to some, looks like a refugee from a chocolate money set. Others, grinding a political axe, then called the new coin the "Maggie" because, they said, it was thick, brassy and had pretensions to being a sovereign. Now we stand on the brink of the demise of sterling itself within a few short years as the Government dithers about its commitment to the single

Енгореан ситтепсу. However, the arguments for and against the euro, which centre on ease of trade across frontiers weighed against loss of sovereignty, may themselves be rendered academic in just a few years. David Errington, the new chief technology officer at Sage, the UK's largest accounting software company. is predicting the demise of money itself by 2010.

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eliminate the need to deal

with tangible money for business transactions. "I believe that money, as we know it today, will become

redundant by 2010."

Some 300,000 small and medium-sized businesses use Sage's software and there can he no doubt that, if they all migrated their goods and services on to the web, it would significantly change the way the rest of us shopped, worked and played. However. it takes a brave man to claim money will disappear entirely. Cash is far too useful for those people who prefer not to leave a transaction trail.

Nevertheless, electronic

He forecasts: "The growth banking is one of the fastest-

As more people bank on the net, some firms are banking on a cashless future

growing areas of the on-line world. The Co-operative Bank now offers all its personal current account and credit card customers the option of a full on-line

internet banking service. As a come-on, the bank is offering anybody who registers for the service before 30 May the chance to enter a competition with a prize of £5,000-worth of computer equipment vouchers. Co-op Bank account-

holders with net access can run an account on-line incurring no extra charges from the bank, though they will still have to pay normal internet connection fees and phone charges. You can view account balances and current/historic statement information, transfer funds from one account to another, change standing orders. cancel direct debits and order a cheque book or paying in book, together with other

routine transactions. The Co-op's site was developed using software designed by the German company Brokat. Its on-line transaction technology is now being used by over 1,400 banks, discount brokers, insurance companies and investment firms. The security system requires you to register a security pass code and secure personal information (SPI) with the Bank via a free telephone call before using the service for the first time.

The SPI will be five pieces of memorable information, such as names and dates which only you would be able to know. Internet users will be asked to confirm any one of the five SPI items plus their security pass code. Failure to

do so about the internet access and you will be asked to

contact the bank by telephone. Co-op also has plans to introduce a palm-top version of its net banking site, which should be available within the next month or so. The bank appears committed to staying at the forefront of consumer technological choice. It may prove to be a wise business decision in the face of a coming upheaval in banking. US banks now count their customer base in the tens and hundreds of millions in the wake of recent mega deals. The round of takeovers and mergers may soon be

However, the excitement in the financial sector has

reflected among Britain's

brought a potential problem of its own as a result of soaring share prices. The New York Stock Exchange's Dow Jones Industrial Average index has traded into record territory well above the 9,000 level and the more optimistic analysts are now forecasting further records above 10,000 by the end of the year. Yet, if this does happen, some of the computer systems used on Wall Street may have the software equivalent of hysterics, since they were designed with the assumption

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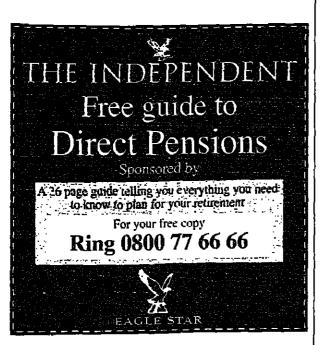
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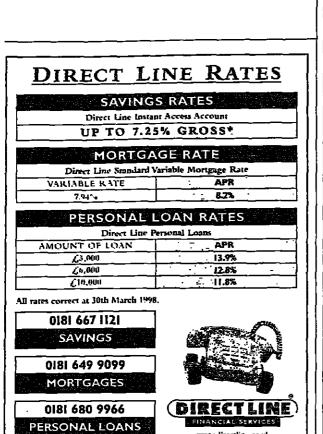
The end may be nigh for PEPs, but there's still time to take advantage of our top performing Growth Fund. And you don't need a large lump sum to do it. Our regular savings plan lets you invest monthly (anything between £50 and £500) right up to April next year. There are no extra costs for investing this way. No initial charges (except 0.5% Government Stamp Duty). And in recent times our Growth Fund has delivered average annual growth of 25.6%*. So, if you want to maximise your tax-free savings, don't delay. The sooner you call, the sooner your money can start earning.

LINES OPER Sam to 9pm, 7 DAYS A WEEX.

0800 829 400 SAVE & PROSPER

TBased on buying to setting price with gross income reinvested since relaunch on 24.05.96 to 02.03.98. Five years: 20.2% p.a. Source: Micropal Growth Fund (formerly Scotbles) changed invastment objective on 24.5.96. The value of investments, and any income from them, can tall as well as use and you may not get back the amount invested. Tex concessions are not guaranteed; their value will depend on includual circumstances. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. It has been announced that from 6th April 1999 if will not be possible to invest in a PEP. In the meantime you will not be disadvantaged by investing in a PEP. Save 8 Prosper is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMPO. We only actives on products and sarvices offered by the Personal Investment Authority and IMPO. We only active on products and sarvices offered by the Personal Investment Authority and IMPO. We only active on products and sarvices offered by the Personal Investment Authority and IMPO.





Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number quoting ref. INDBB55

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BRIAN **TORA**

Banking on mega-merger

It is easy to dislike banks, reaction surprisingly matur Large, impersonal, for ever After all, what contribution bearing down on the small cus- can Northern Rock or A tomer - I doubt there are liance & Leicester make in the many of us who have not had elobal market place? Son reason to complain about the consolidation in our crowde level of service received from banking sector must be their bank at some time.

Well, banks are in the news at present. And it looks likely that some will not be around for much longer. In the past. they have been a protected species. The Glass Steagall Act in the US limited how banks could operate. This legislation could be challenged in Congress later this year.

On Wall Street, bank mergers have been making big news. Bank of America is getting together with Nations-Bank while First Chicago is beating a path to the altar with BancOne, continuing the consolidation of US banking that is expected to be repeated here. The Citicorp and Travelers Group deal is in another league entirely, though.

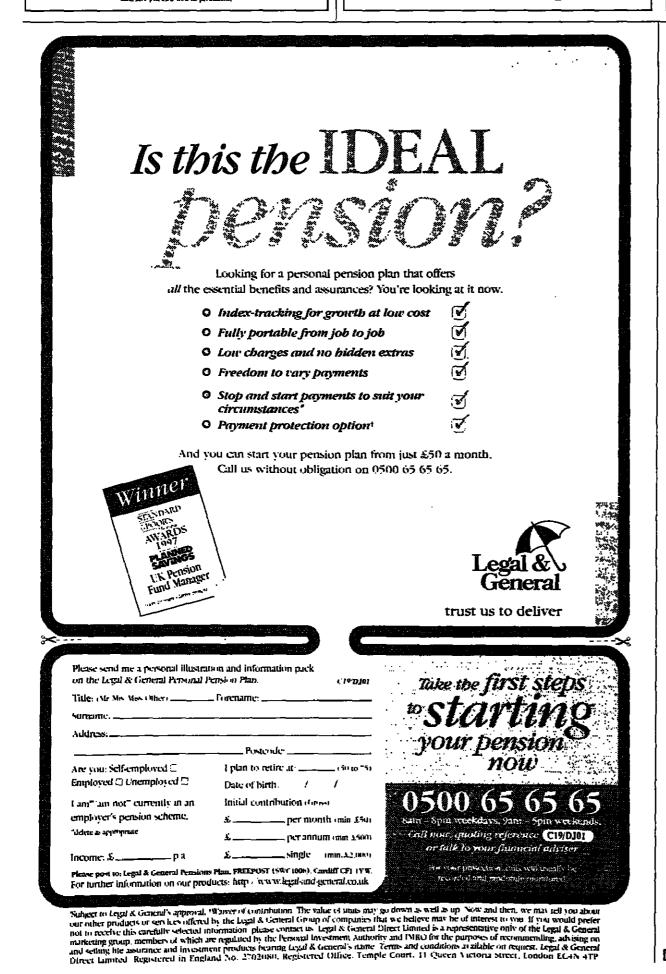
Citigroup, as the new massive combine is to be unimaginatively named, represents the new face of global financial services. One stop financial shopping world-wide is the aim. One hundred million customers from 100 countries is just the starting point.

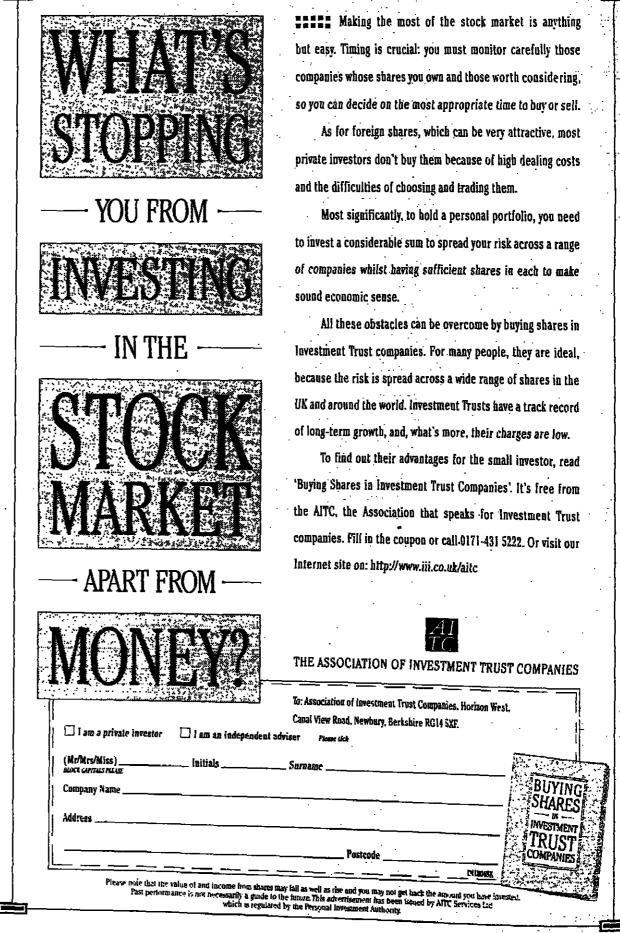
There must be plenty of competitors who will not wish to be left behind. In the US, speculation is rife that this is the first of a whole series of marriages which will change the face of international banking. Here in the UK, the flurry of excitement was more short-lived. Some larger banks, like HSBC, attracted investor attention as analysts clude the Birmingham Mi sought to determine which might form part of new global groupings. It did not last for long, though. Even more surprisingly, there was no knockon effect to send shares of smaller banks skyward.

Brian Tora is the chairman the Greig Middleton inves I find the market's muted ment strategy committee.

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Brian Tora is the chairman of the Greig Middleton invest-	U – Unemploymes		• • • •	· .		· ·
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JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

It is now several years since the authors of In Search of Excellence elevated the slogan "Keep it simple, stupid" into one of the management catch phrases of the 1980s. The rest of the book's recipes for success may long since have gone the way of all management fads but I have not yet met a successful businessman who did not in practice observe the dictates of that one powerful command. The clear lesson of history is that, in a complex

world, you overcomplicate at your peril. The more I study the techniques of

successful investors, the more convinced I become that the same command should be the watchword of anyone who wants to make the most of their money as well. Those who make the best investors are, by and large, the ones who have the greatest ability to see through all the noise and distractions of the day's activity in the markets and hold firm to a

few well-tried, common-sense precepts. I was interested, therefore, to read this week a speech given by John Bogle, the founder of the Vanguard group, on this very theme of simplicity in investing. Vanguard, you may recall, is a mutually owned American fund management group which pioneered the spread of index tracking and other low-cost mutual funds in the United States.

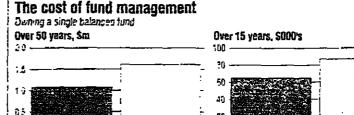
Being outspoken and prone to telling his peers a few home truths about the way they do business, Mr Bogle is not always flavour of the month in the mutual fund industry. However, what he has to say to ordinary investors about the stock market is so long on common sense - and also so straightforward - that I make no apology for passing on some more of his advice. (Thasten to add that I have no vested interest in promoting Vanguard itself: if other fund managers chose to speak as much sense, their views

would be just as greatly appreciated.) The first and most important "simple truth" that investors need to appreciate, Mr Bogle says, is the need to define their objectives realistically. They should start by accepting that they are not going to

capture all the rewards of the asset class they have chosen to invest in the that cash, bonds, property of the stock market). If you invest in a building society, you know you are not going to get the best money market rates.

Yet the same goes for shares: on average, you cannot expect to do as well as the stock market averages. The buying and selling costs and the charges levied by fund managers (if you use one) will inevitably see to that. What most investors should do, therefore, is start by aiming for something lower but more realistic - which is to capture as much of the potential return of the asset class they are in as they can.

If you accept that premise, index tracking funds are the logical starting place. The graphs show how that difference expresses itself over different lengths of time. A typical actively managed balanced mutual fund has captured 90 per cent of the market's returns over the past 50 years; a comparable low-cost tracker fund (with



index balanced fund

the same split between equities and bonds) would have captured 98 per cent

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of the potential return. Over the last 15 years, the disparity is greater still: the average actively managed fund has captured 85 per cent of the market's returns, against the average index tracking fund's 99 per cent. (The reason the gap between the two classes is wider in the shorter period is that the average cost deducted as a fee by fund management companies has

gone up in the last 15 years.) Because of our old friend compound interest, the difference that makes to the value of the fund at the end of the

period is striking. Suppose your original investment was £10,000; the value of the fund at the end of the period would be £500,000 more if you succeeded in capturing the extra 8 per cent of the market's performance over that time.

double your initial investment. So tracking should be at the core of your strategy. Human nature being what it, however, even Mr Bogle sensibly concedes that most people will not want to settle for such a dull but worthy objective alone. They will hold fast to

Over the past 15 years, the difference in

the final value of your £10,000 investment

would have come to around £21,000, or

the notion that they may be the fortunate ones who can distinguish the best performing funds from the worst (and there are a minority of funds which do consistently outperform, if you know how to find them).

If you are one of those investors, I can only urge you to consider carefully the rest of Mr Bogle's advice. His first rule is: when in doubt, go for a low-cost fund over a more expensive one. Next. prefer those funds which have a low turnover rate of holdings: the lower the turnover, the lower the transaction costs you incur. (According to Vanguard, the turnover rate in US mutual funds has risen three-fold since the early 1980s.) Then, aim to buy directly if you can. avoiding sales commission to advisers

When it comes to performance figures, treat all past performance statistics with healthy scepticism. Go for a consistently above average performer rather than an occasional top 10 appearance. Beware of star names - they are easy to identify in retrospect, but rarely in advance. Once you have made a well-researched choice, stick with the decision: don't chop and change. Finally, don't own too many different funds after three or four, you are getting no additional diversification benefits.

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GROWTH

UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET: JOHN ANDREW

Some profitable reading

Copy the analysts and keep abreast of the news that moves shares prices

Mankind has always had a healthy appetite for news. In the financial world, news is always eagerly digested and analysed. It is very important as the prices of stocks and shares respond both upwards and downwards to information, rumours and opinions.

It is by being informed that investors are able to enhance their prospects of making money. It is not just new opportunities that you should be on the look out for, but also any developments relating to companies in which you have shares.

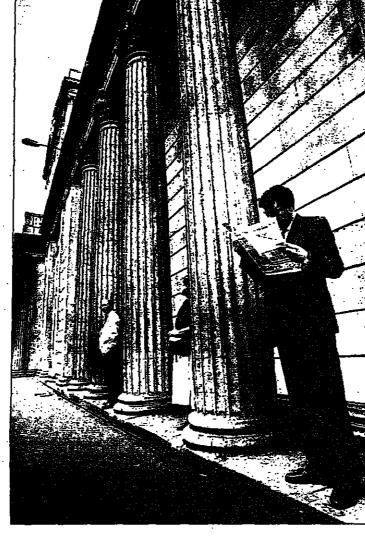
Even when a company is doing well, stockbrokers may recommend selling its shares purely because they consider investors could do even better by investing in one of its rivals. Other reasons for selling include poor prospects because of mismanagement, a decline in the demand for the goods produced, increased competition in the industry or simply because its share price has risen higher than its future prospects suggest is a sensible level.

Analysis at stockbrokers, of course, spend all their time researching companies' progress. They attend presentations given by the organisations and can ask directors and executives questions. They not only analyse a company's results in a depth, but they monitor the markets companies operate in and look at the effect of economic indicators on individual organisations.

So, what can we do as small shareholders? Let us start with monitoring the price of the shares we hold. You can check prices each morning in The Independent's shares page. However, remember that these are a snap shot at a particular moment in time - at the close of business on the previous working day. Share prices fluctuate constantly throughout a trading day.

You can use The Independent Teleshare service to obtain the current price. Details of how this operates and the charges are a range of features covering everything from on the shares page. Alternatively, you can access one of the TV text services, where share prices are updated several times a day.

Derek Pain's Market Report, which leatures on our shares page, is an excellent place to get an overall daily view of the mar-



ing Stock, a column which includes useful snippets that could reveal an opportunity you may like to explore further.

Both TV and radio have slots which are good for general updates on UK business stories. For early birds there is Business Breakfast at 6am on BBC1 Monday through to Friday. Business news also features and do your own research. throughout the day during the regular news programmes on both radio and on TV.

Then there are specialist publications. The Investors' Chronicle contains buy and sell tips; a summary of brokers' recommendations: a brief analysis of results; a market view and personal finance to traded options. It is published each Friday at £2.50. Annual subscriptions cost £112, but look out for special offers if you decide to subscribe.

If your interests are in unit and investment trusts, there are also monthly per- London EC2V 5BQ.

ket. Written in an easy to read, yet infor- sonal finance magazines worth considering mative style, it is not just concerned with for example, Personal Finance (£2.60); what has happened. It also includes Tak- Bloomberg Money (£2.95); Moneywise (£2.70); What Investment (£2.75) and Money Management (£5.50).

Then, of course, there are commercial investment newsletters too numerous to list here. You will have no trouble finding their news, international market reports and news advertisements in the financial press. However, remember that no tip is infallible. Use any tip, wherever it is published, as a guide

Also, be aware that one stockbroker's "buy" can be another broker's "seli" the next week. Needless to say, you will have to make up your own mind as to whom to follow, as it is not prudent to change strategy on a regular basis. As the saying goes: "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

For a copy of the ProShare 'Investor Update: Where to Get Share Information's end a stamped addressed envelope to: ProShare Investor Updates, 13-14 Basinghall Street,

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HOW TO BORROW TO PAY EDUCATION BILLS

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■Some gold cards allow substantial borrowings. NatWest's card allows up to £10.000, with interest levied at $\bar{3}$ points over base rates and a minimum charge of 10 per cent.

If you have a with-profits endowment, you may be able to borrow up to the level of the bonuses already attached to it. Ask your life company. Scottish Widows also lends on other companies' policies.

University challenge

A levels are only one of the hurdles facing students wanting to go to college, writes Tony Lyons

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The Equitable Life You profit from our principles

I consider myself one of the lucky ones. London and at £2,340 in London for Many years ago. I decided to go to uni- students living away from home. Fewer versity and get a degree. Coming and fewer students qualify for any from a home where there was little grant, let alone the full amount. If their money did not worry me as I was able to get a full student grant from my local authority. While not enough to pay for more than £32.500 after allowances and a riotous time of good living and beer they will get no grant at all. Under a swilling, it did at least provide enough to cover my basic needs of food and received a full grant while as many as lodgings, with the odd pound or two one-third got nothing at all. left over for a cheap night out.

Nowadays, matters are very different. The last thing students need to Alevels is worrying about how they will be able to survive if they do well and go on to a place at university.

Yet a high proportion of the 800.000-plus expected to go into higher education this autumn will be unprepared for the costs involved. Latest estimates are that it will cost around three years they will be studying for a degree. If they go to a Scottish unifour years, it can cost a third more. On top of this, there will also be tuition fees and most universities and colleges will charge the full £1,000 a year.

The maximum grant has been fixed

parents have a joint income of over £16,050, the grant is reduced. Earn quarter of last year's student intake

There are special student loans available. But even borrowing the maximum will not make up the shortfall that have on their minds as they revise for the student needs to live on. Banks and building societies are keen to offer students "cheap" overdrafts. Typical is Halifax, which permits them to have "interest-free" overdrafts up to £500 in the first year, £750 in the second, and £1,000 in the third. But the loans have to be repaid after they qualify.

If the student is going to Liverpool £15,000 to £18,000 per child for the or one of the other cheaper university towns, the National Union of Students estimates that they will need at least versity, where many of the courses take £4,300 a year for reasonable expenditure, board, lodgings and books. More expensive towns will cost at least another £1,000 a year.

Most parents have to contribute to student expenses out of income as too for a number of years at £1,855 outside few think to start a savings plan early



This can put a hefty dent in the wage packet. There are ways of reducing the

impact but none is cheap. If there is sufficient free capital value in the house, it can be used to raise a first or second mortgage. Some institutions offer special deals on money borrowed to pay for education,

A personal loan is another possibility. But this is relatively expensive, with most high street banks charging at least 18 per cent in interest rates.

An alternative for those with gold credit cards is to use the low-cost loans

over £20,000 a year.

If you have a with-profits endowment policy, money can be borrowed from your insurance company. Most insurers offer loans at reasonable rates, with the capital being repaid out of the policy's maturity value.

If you are looking a year or two ahead, it is not too late to start saving for university education. There are a couple of tax-efficient ways of building up a lump sum that will pay some. if not all, of the costs of college.

These can include national savings, that some offer. These cards are where money can be saved tax free. You

enough to pay for higher education. usually available only to those earning could make use of personal equity plans (PEPs) while you can, and Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs), when they start next April. However, share prices can fall as well as go up.

Alternatively, an offshore roll-up fund can be opened in the child's name. When he or she reaches 18 and goes on to university, the proceeds can be used to provide for their needs. Either regular savings or a lump sum can be invested. Income is rolled up gross of tax. When the child receives the returns, as they are unlikely to be carning enough to be liable for income tax.

A crash course in raising funds to meet the costs of learning

your child's education the better. despair. There are a number of ways you may be able to meet the costs.

The first thing to remember is that you will not have the full education costs up from. Fees are usually due at the beginning of each term, so high earners may even be able to pay them out of their salaries. And even if your you may be able to cover some it out of your normal income.

It may also be possible to increase working, the other may be able to re- ward Creasey, an independent finan-

The sooner you can start saving for Abigail Montrose examines some ways to cover But if you did not plan ahead don't school and college fees you have not budgeted for

turn to work and boost the family cial adviser at Clark Conway is income. Another possibility is to rent through existing investments. "See if out a spare room. Under the rent a room scheme, you can let a room in your home and, providing the income is no more than £4,250 a year, it is tax free and does not even have to appear pay will not stretch to the full amount, on your tax return. For more information, ask your local tax office for Inland Revenue leaflet IR87.

Another way you may be able to your income. If only one partner is increase your income, suggests Ed-

you can utilise any to provide you with an income. Personal equity plan (PEP) investors may be able to switch into income producing funds which would help them meet the costs of education. But be very wary about cash-

ing in any investments," he says. Only if you do not have sufficient income or investments to cover school fees, should you consider borrowing. Often it is possible to borrow against

you do not have to cash it in, the policy will continue to grow in value and you will not lose out on any terminal bonus.

If your insurer will not lend against your policy you could try Scottish Widows Bank. It will lend against the policies of 36 insurance companies. The bank will lend up to 75 per cent of the surrender value, charging a compet-

itive 3 per cent above base rate. If you own or are buying your home, you could look to borrow against it. If you have a mortgage, see if your lender will give you a further advance. Or you could consider remortgaging altogether, suggests Simon

a with-profits life assurance policy. As Tyler, managing director of Chase de Vere Mortgage Management. He points out that remortgaging and borrowing, say, an extra £20,000 could be cheaper than sticking with your existing lender.

Another option worth considering is one of the new flexible mortgages. These vary, but those offering a cheque book facility and drawdown option, such as Bank of Scotland's. Mortgage Trust's and Scottish Widows Bank's, may be the answer.

If you don't own your home you could look at personal loans. But do shop around and compare interest rates as they vary enormously.

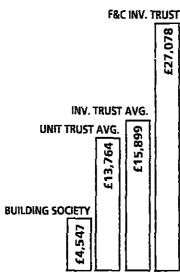
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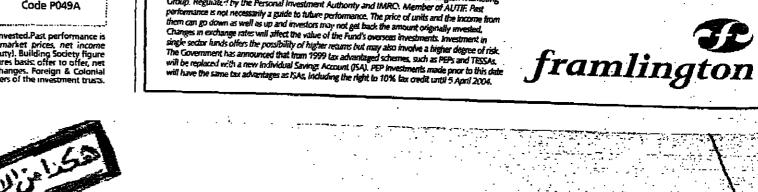
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From the cradle to the graduation ceremony: how to get an early advantage

have good state schools where you live, you are hicky. Most parents wanting their children to have the best education will think find the costs of saving out of income are charging much more. Prep schools can be risk foreign markets. Fidelity's Triple of sending them to a private school but, unless they have very high earnings, that means

saving for education as soon as possible. "Early planning is the key," stresses Simon Holt, managing director of Skipton Financial Services, an independent financial adviser. "But, sadly, many parents flushed with the pride of parenthood and

Education is an expensive business. If you Parents need to plan ahead for fees, warns Simon Read

According to the specialist advisers, School Fees Associated, paying for an 11year-old at an average school for seven years is likely to cost £50,000 to £60,000. According to Skipton Financial Services, typical day fees at a non-boarding senior school

£800 a term upwards. Boarding schools start at around £2,500 a term.

So what kind of savings should parents he considering now? Mr Holt suggests taxexempt special savings accounts (Tessas), personal equity plans (PEPs) and the new Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) when they come along next year. "PEPs carry wanting to do their best for their children are at least £1,000 a term, with top schools higher risks than deposits, but long-term

"Lower-risk PEPs could include the GT income PEP. For those attracted to higher-Performance PEP could be an answer."

However, worries about the high level of equity markets at home and news of crashing economies in the Far East may encourage parents to consider less risky ontions like Tessas or other building soci-

ety savings accounts. An insurance company savings plan, the endowment policy, is much less flexible but

the rewards should be better," he says, can offer better returns than simple deposit accounts. Mr Holt suggests a with-profits or unit-linked plan from a reputable company such as Standard Life. "These plans can be tailored to mature when school fees are expected to fall due." he says.

A drawback with endowment plans is period to get the best value out of them. So if you change your mind about education for your child, you should continue payor you could lose a lot of your investment. mendations.

"As in most long-term planning processes, a balance of products is likely to be best," advises Mr Holt. He suggests three factors should be considered when making financial plans: the state of parents' existing finances; when fees are likely to be needed and how much risk the parents want that they should be kept up for their full to take with the underlying investments used to fund the cost.

An independent financial adviser will be able to assist you through the planning ing premiums until the pre-set maturity date process and make appropriate recom-

Scholarship schemes

Private schools are looking at ways to replace the loss of assisted places. By Richard Shackleton

Scarcely has an election pledge been honoured so quickly. Within weeks of winning last May's general election Labour moved on its manifesto commitment to end "assisted places" in the independent education sector. An emergency bill was rushed through Parliament to abolish the scheme, which helps pay up to £10,000 of the fees for bright children from modest backgrounds to attend otherwise unaffordable private schools.

Despite protests and a court challenge, ministers have agreed to continue funding for existing secondary school pupils until they finish sixth form at 18. But those in preparatory schools must leave the scheme before transferring to secondary education.

Withdrawal of the scheme has forced the independent schools sector into feverish activity. Head teachers are looking to set up their own assistedplaces schemes, releasing resources from long dormant endowments and establishing fund-raising campaigns. They are worried that unless they continue toattract the clever pupils who win assisted places, they will tumble down the academic league tables as they become more socially exclusive.

Manchester Grammar School is setting up a £10m foundation to support more than 300 pupils - the number at present winning government-assisted places at the school: Monmouth School and Monmouth School for Girls, run by the Haberdashers' Company, have raised a £42m fund to pay for 212 assisted places - costing £1m a year - by selling prop- and most are awarded on the basis of



of all, the Girls' Public Day School Trust has launched a £70m scholarship scheme to save all 3,000 of its assisted places.

In the long run, according to the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), which represents the top public schools, some 10,000 scholarshins will be available to children from underprivileged families.

Meanwhile, schools are preserving. even augmenting, the number and variety of scholarships awarded purely on merit. Most scholarships are academic. erty left to them in 1614. Most ambitious achievement in a school's own entrance

examination or, in the case of HMC schools, in special scholarship examinations taken in February, March or May. Most offer up to 50 per cent off the school's fees, conforming to a gentleman's agreement designed to stop rich schools poaching the best pupils.

Beyond this, there is an infinite vari-

ety of scholarships. Some date back centuries. King's scholarships at Eton have been offered since the college's foundation by Henry VI in 1440. Others are "closed" - as opposed to "open" - and limited to certain categories of pupil. Several schools reserve scholarships

have been offered at Eton since 1440 Photograph: Peter Macdamic

for children of former pupils. Had Tony Blair wanted to send a son to his old school. Fettes College in Edinburgh. he could have hoped for a Todd scholarship. which is for children of Old Fettesians. Others reserve scholarships or exhibitions for children of the clergy or members of the armed forces.

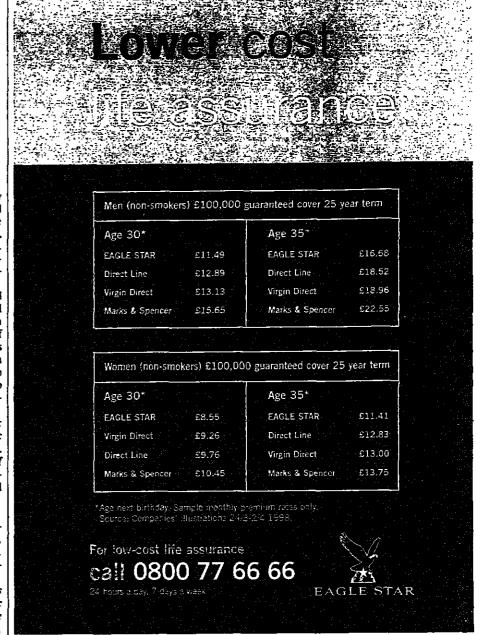
There are also scholarships reserved for children from certain regions. Keil School in Dumbarton offers Foundation bursaries to pupils in the "counties of benefit7: Argyll, Bute. Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland. Clifton College in Bristol offers a scholarship to children of newspaper journalists who work in Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire or Dorset.

There are also many scholarships for children who are gifted in non-academic pursuits - art, drama, music and sport. Several schools offer the new breed of so-called "all-rounder" scholarships, including Downside School, Millfield School and Uppingham.

Useful contacts: Independent Schools Information Service: 56, Buckingham Gate, London SW1. Telephone: 0171-630 8793. ISIS also offers a search facility on its website: "www.ISIS.org.uk".

For the annual guide "Music Awards at Independent Schools": The Music Masters and Mistresses Association, Three Ways, Chicks Lane, Kilndown, Cranbrook, Kent. Telephone: 01892 890537. For details of places for choristers at

choir schools: The Choir Schools Association, The Minster School, Deangate. York YO1 2J.A. Telephone: 01904 625217.



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SAVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES It became obvious that the sooner education expenses were sorted out, the better. Paying for further education isn't getting any easier. Especially with the Government's plans to abandon the grant system and insitute a 'loan' scheme for students. Likewise, the cost of private schooling is becoming an ever increasing family expense. But at SIT, we've got the answer. We have straightforward and effective savings schemes that offer a perfect solution. For example, a £50 monthly investment over the past 10 years in SIT would STOCKPLAN - AS LITTLE AS £25 PER MONTH have grown into a substantial £11,800* - a growth rate of over 12.8% p.a. THE SIT PEP - FROM £100 PER MONTH So take your first steps to building up further education expenses. Call SIT today, or use the coupon below. ADD LUMP SUMS WHEN AND IF YOU WISH NO ENTRY OR EXIT COSTS NO MINIMUM TERM A BROAD-BASED, GLOBAL INVESTMENT Please send me the (tick one be) | SIT STOCKPLAN ... -SIT PEP ... BOTH information packies and application formies), ontoci capitale ple POSTCODE Send this coupon to trivestor Services, SIT Savings Ltd, FREEPOST EH882, & Albyn Place, Edinburgh EH2 ODH. For a brochure on our LOW COST Share Exchange Scheme tick here FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE 0800 424422 or e-mail us on: **heather@sit.co.uk**or return the coupon above - no stamp is required. No salesman will call ent issued by STF Savings Ltd., a wholly-cowned subsediary of The Scottesh Investment Trust FLC and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Pass pertorman The value of chares and the moome from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested, dends reinvested and after all expenses of dealing through SIT's STOCKPLAN savings scheme. Source: The Scottish Investment Trust PLC.



GAVIN GREEN

Now that the "new" Volkswagen Beetle has been warmly welcomed by the press and (far more important to VW) firmly embraced by customers, comes news of another "retro" car. Citroën has recently confirmed that it will make a "new" 2CV.

This trend to recreate characterful old cars (and watch the showrooms fill) is all part of the motor car's progression from a mere appliance to an emotionally attractive object. Nowadays, we affluent Westerners don't buy cars on sensible, economical, get-you-from-A-to-B grounds. We buy cars which make us feel good. That's why car ads now have no product information, and dish out feel-good images which make me puke but which, apparently, make other motorists come over all emotional and rush down to their dealers, chequebook in hand.

Remailt recently did some research with Clio owners, asking them to describe their cars. Instead of putting "four-wheeled metal box with labric seats and a four-cylinder engine driving the front wheels through a five-speed synchromesh gearbox" most Clio owners described their cars as being "feminine. sexy, young, carefree and slightly unorthodox." They were actually describing Nicole, the girl in the Renault ads, not a small Renault car; but the subtle differences between a headstrong, sexy French teenager and a mass-produced car apparently eluded most owners.

The emotional baggage is even greater with a retro car, it has to be; after all, there is absolutely no sensible reason to buy one. A new Beetle is just the latest Golf with a new body - and less headroom and a smaller boot and a higher price tag. But because it looks cute and reminds people of a car that was thought to have personality (never mind that it was conceived by Hitler), people love it and use all sorts of animate qualities to describe it. If you believe most of the market research descriptions of the new Beetle (cheeky, rebellious, friendly, cuddly, lovable, to quote just some of the culogies), the car clearly has more personality than most of its owners. Whether this says more about late 20th century man, or more about late 20th century cars, is a moot point.

To be frank, the old Beetle didn't make much sense towards the end of its days either. The only reason it sold in vast quantities was because, up until the early Seventies, there was no other tolerably reliable small car - not when rivals included Minis. small Fiats and small Renaults. The Beetle got squashed when the Japanese arrived with the Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla and when Yanks, in particular, realised that you didn't have to put up with dodgy handling and no performance (the Beetle) or appalling reliability and rust in small cars (Mini. Renaults and Fiats). The Beetle has resurfaced as the Yanks tire of "me-too" looking Japanese cars and want something different.

Not much is known about Citroen's new 2CV, other than that it will probably share mechanicals with the upcoming Peugeot 207 hatchback (successor to the 205, and due to be unveiled this October) and that it will feature a high, rounded roll-back roof. a la original. It's due to hit the streets in 2000.

Although it may be faithful to the old Deur Chevaux in appearance, it is a million miles away in concept. The first 2CV was conceived as a cheap. classless car, designed to accommodate gentlemen wearing top-bats (thus the high headroom) and rural peasants (thus the pliant suspension, which was capable of traversing a ploughed field without breaking a crate of eggs). As it aged, and became increasingly dynamically hopeless, so it became transmogrified (in marketing, if not mechanicals) into a trendy, liberal, attractively subversive conveyance.

Amazingly, Citroën thinks it can reinvent the 2CV's image all over again. Its upcoming, distinctively styled new model will be aimed at trendy young urbanites. Given the power of effective car marketing, this sounds eminently plausible. Which just goes to show that the real powerhouses at car companies these days aren't the engineers and designers, who conceive the cars. Rather, they are the marketing departments, who conceive the publicity cumpaigns.

Hatchback to the future

Road test Vauxhall Astra 1.8 CDX, by John Simister

You can tell by the cars they choose. No longer do you feel shudders over Get the gadgets right, and the safety bumps as though the tyres were made features too in the responsible, consumer-led late-1990s, and the car's driving dynamics can be taken as read. the front wheels through the medium Any company-car fleet manager can of rubber bands. tell you that.

This depressing philosophy used to serve the biggest players in companycar sales - Ford and Vauxhall - well. Then Ford's Mondeo arrived to set a new agenda, to show that the future lay with letting engineers take back control of car design from the accountants. It became a case of "How good can we afford to make it?" instead of "How little can we get away with spending?"

Since then, every Ford has been fun to drive, comparable with Peugeots, Renaults, Volkswagens and Fiats. It's the new norm. but Vauxhall has been excluded from the party - until the new

Astra came along. of heavyweight steel, and it has been part-developed by

Most drivers don't enjoy driving much. er and engineering consultant Lotus. airy cabin with an interesting curvy of concrete, no longer does the steer- tureless and cliff-like, the textures of ing wheel feel as though connected to the plastics feel cheap, and the bits

From one of the dullest-driving hatchbacks you could buy, the Astra has become one of the more invigorating. Formerly a car whose loose, clunky controls swallowed up all attempts at driving finesse in a tactile fog, a car in which it made no difference whether you drove it well or badly, it is now an instrument of fair interactivity, precision and pleasure. The transformation is remarkable.

It looks quite different, too. We're back to the chunkiness of earlier Astras, but this time with a vertical edge to the rear side window. This, with the very laid-back windscreen and the long wheelbase, makes the Astra look back of the car with the speed.

this one is gloomy, its dashboard is feadon't fit together very well. Compared with the new Golf's excellent interior, it's a disappointment.

It is roomy, though; there's more space in here than in some cars the next size class up. And, in the range-topping and rather expensive 1.8 CDX version I have been testing (there's a 1.2, a 1.4, two 1.6s and a pair of turbodiesels beneath it), the equipment list is long enough to keep the most determined of status-seckers happy. It has air-conditioning, front electric windows (and blanks for the missing electric rear window switches - so much for being topof-the-range), a trip computer, allow wheels, stereo controls on the steering wheel, and a fine complement of safety equipment including side

three three-point rear belts, anti-lock dashboard that was very Vauxhall; brakes and anti-skid traction control. This 1.8 is a rapid car, capable of

a remarkable 125mph and eager to accelerate right across the speed range thanks to its variable-resonance intake

And although the engine still has a characteristic Vauxhall sound, it's very quiet with no boom or buzz. The gear change is much improved, too, fake wood gear knob notwithstanding, but fast upward gear changes are hindered by the engine's reluctance to lose speed the moment you ease off the accelerator. The brakes are over-sensitive at low speeds, too.

Overall, though, this is a fine effort. Drastic measures were needed to make the Astra appealing, and they have been taken. It used to be hard to drive an Astra and come across as someone of automotive taste. Now, it's feasible.

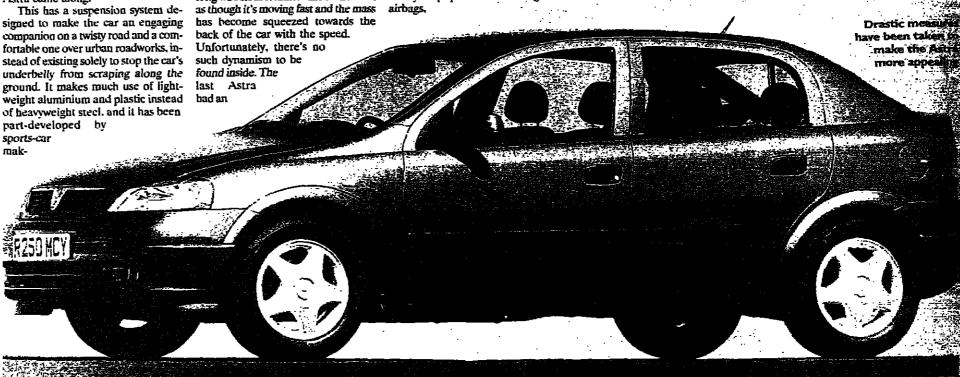
Vauxhall Astra 1,8 CDX:

Engine: 1.796cc. four cylinders, 16 valves, 115hhp at 5,400rpm; Firespeed gearbox, front-wheel drive Performance: top speed (25mph. 0-60 in 9.3sec, 31-36mpg

Rivals

Citroen Xsara (.8 Exclusive: £15,400. Unmemorable styling undersells a quick, responsive. entertaining and comfortable car. Less space, more driver appeal. Ford Escort 1.8 Ghia: £4,05 Late-life makeover three years ago. salvaged a seemingly hopeless case. Good value, replaced by mad looking Focus in autumn. Peugeot 306 1.8 GLX: 04,545 All the Xsara's attributes in a prettier package, except that it's not quite as fively. Volkswagen Golf 1.6 SE £14,820. Best-built harchback oozes quality, not as much fire to

drive as Astra and French rivals.



Hands up if you use your mobile in the car

They allow you to talk to whoever you want from wherever in yours? Keep you want, whenever you want and vice versa. Communicating your mitts on has never been easier for the 8.5 million users in the UK. It the wheel, urges may be a bit too easy.

Some users take the 'mobile" a bit too literally. Never mind making inappropriate and indiscreet calls on the bus or train. They believe that holding the mobile in one hand and steering with the other is OK. It's downright

dangerous and actually illegal. The Road Safety Minister. Baroness Hayman, recently making an in-car call: "Driving

Aren't mobile phones great? What do you do

vehicles to ensure the safety of themselves, their passengers and other road users."

She also suggested that even making a hands-free phone call ought to be discouraged: "It is safer not to use any type of phone when driving, conversareminded us of the perils of tions on hands-free phones could distract your attention whilst using a hand-held mobile from the road. Our advice is to phone could cost lives. Drivers use a messaging service and must be in full control of their take regular breaks to make

penseful spoken-word cassette will soon be the subject of legislation. For the moment, kits which rely on your car's bat- is good value because buying though, we don't need to be nannied because it is still legal for motorists to make calls using a hands-free system, and

the cost of a prang. The reason for Baroness Hayman's pronouncements is the launch of national newspaper ads with images of a crash scene and the slogan "Handheld mobile phones and driving. It's a bad call."

all for considerably less than

There is also an advisory leaflet issued by the Department of the Environment. Transport and the Regions called "Mobile phones and driving". It has been endorsed by the Federation of Communication Services (FCS), the mobile communications industry body, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Automobile Association.

It provides guidance on hands-free mobile phone use

those essential calls." On that and advice to employers about car - the cost will be subsidised. Ince. It costs £29.95 and basis, in-car conversations with how to reduce accident risk for passengers ought to be banned staff. This will be distributed by some sort of scheme. The Ford - and listening to a particularly road safely officers and the Call Programme offers a rousing classical CD, or sus- police, and to learner drivers scheme in which a Motorola through driving instructors.

> the phone at the same time. nected usually costs £129, plus The simplest plugs into the a £329 charge for installation. cigarette lighter socket. The most complicated is

wired directly into the car's a microphone, use of a speaker, or existing speakers or earphones, plus a cradle for the telephone.

The kit is usually activated once the car is started. The more expensive systems are wired into the car itself and work in conjunction with the stereo system which is either Not all mobile phones have incar facilities and it is vital to look at the specifications in a magazine like What Mobile? from £120 to almost £400.

Most manufacturers have D460 is factory fitted and con-There are two types of in-car nected to Cellnet for £99. That the constabulary do stop and

However, if you already have a mobile and don't want the complication of an inteelectrical system. There will be grated system there are plenty of gadgets being launched every month to keep your hands free.

Banner Twinchoice has a Walk-n-Talk set which plugs straight into your mobile. The headset costs just £17, although some phones will need an adap-

tor which costs £11.75. Whilst most hands-free kits consist of an earpiece and muted or turned off altogether. microphone, there are alternatives. Pama has produced one with a throat-mounted microcheck with manufacturers or phone which picks up the voice rather than an ambient noise. That makes it perfect for The cost of installation varies motorcyclists. It won't get in your way if you are wearing a Often it is cheaper to specify an helmet, although you will integrated system with a new appear to be wearing a neck-

able for a wide range of phone.

If there is an excuse for driving whilst using a mobile phone, the police have probably heard it. So just in case you wondered, probably caution drivers caught to their ears.

According to Ken Williams. vice chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee and Chief Constable of Norfolk: "We do not consider specific legislation in relation to the use of mobile phones by drivers is necessary. We already have adequate powers to prosecute."

The maximum fine for not being in complete control of your vehicle is £2,500. Driving without due care and attention can attract a fine of up to £2,500 and between three and nine points on the driving licence. A couple of very good reasons to go hands free.

Pama throat microphone from £29.95, 0161 248 1020; Banner Twinchoice Walk-n-Talk, from £17, 0500 121555; Ford Cellular Systems, 0870 6022255.

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MY WORST CAR: SANDY MITCHELL'S RENAULT 4 VAN My worst and first car was a Renault 4 van

which I bought for £150 in my second year of university. It symbolised my first real break from home and a passport to freedom. I was a keen windsurfer at the time and the hole in the roof where a builder would have put his ladders proved ideal for my boards. As a result I spent most of my time in the Renault and I even put a mattress in the back. I remember my friends calling it the passion wagon. On a good day it made a noise like a

hummingbird, but you had to drive it with your foot to the floor to make any decent progress. On one occasion there was a party and I remember my parents disapproving of the company I was keeping, but I went anyway. It involved a long drive, but it was worth it. On the way back I drove in the usual flat out manner, but it ended abruptly when steam spewed out of the bonnet like a whale. The Renault finally caught up with me after months of abuse.

Obviously I wasn't a member of the AA so I had to sort out the problem myself. I opened the bonnet and realised a hose had burst. The only chance I had of repairing it was to take the laces out of my tennis shoes and tie them around the split. I then topped up the radiator with mineral water. Amazingly, the car started and it got me to within four miles



of home when it petered out on the top of a hill. I thought I might just be able to freewheel the rest of way. But it was a tricky operation because the door shut and it was very difficult to reopen. The inevitable happened and it started to roll away from me and I had to jog alongside until I was almost out of breath before scrambling back in again.

After that incident the Renault did not last very long. The rust was so bad you could see the ground through the footwells and passengers were starting to

get very nervous about travelling with me. Eventually I asked a garage to check the chassis and they said, "What chassis?" I had three decent tyres and they gave me £75 for it. Which wasn t bad considering I'd got a year's worth of motoring out of it. On reflection perhaps it wasn't such a bad car after all.

Sandy Mitchell is Deputy Editor of 'Country Life' and presents a new series of 'Hot Property' on Channel 5 starting on 4 May. He was talking to James Ruppert.





If you want a piece of the New York action, Ian Eichner has a week in a Manhattan apartment that may be right up your street. Photograph: Tom Pilston.

A slice of the Apple

An American tycoon has come up with an urban version of timesharing: he is selling stakes in apartments in New York. Jane Slade reports on a novel twist to a tarnished concept

The word "timeshare" still catches at the back of the throat. It smells of hard-sell Eightiesstyle, of circulars promising free gifts if one attends a "presentation", of rooms in an uncompleted complex and mounting service charges, of two weeks to spend in Majorca -

Timeshare was once all about buying a fortnight of an apartment in some seaside resort, which you could either use yourself or rent out. The trouble was that everyone wanted to go at the same time - which meant that unless you got in quick you were left with two weeks in February.

As the hundreds of people caught out by commission-hungry salespeople every year will attest, this image is still typical of one end of the market, despite attempts by the timeshare industry to regulate itself. Yet, in typical style, the Americans have hijacked a European idea and made it their own.

Time moves on, and so has timeshare. It is big business in the US, and recently caught the imagination of an American property tycoon. Ian Eichner claims to have redefined "timeshare" as: "One week of a luxurious apartment in the most exciting city in the world, which you can exchange with the same in any one of 85 countries."

Eichner, a fast-talking, high-rise propertydeveloping, rich ex-New York attorney, has just opened the first time-share apartment in New York - and with it coined a new millennium catchphrase: "urban timeshare". Imagine owning 1/52th of a place just over the road from Carnegie Hall, the bright lights of Broadway, Macy's, Bloomingdales ...

"We are looking to attract a completely different market than the original timeshare concept." Mr Eichner explained at the recent grand opening. "The big downside to conventional timeshare is that it's seasonal urban timeshare isn't."

Mr Eichner wants to entice companies as well as foreign tourists and businessmen into his luxurious Manhattan lair, as well as anyone who wants a bit of luxury for one week a year in a city that is running short of hotel space. The other huge attraction, particularly for the tourist, is that he can swap his week for another elsewhere in the world through Eichner's link-up with the holiday timeshare exchange company RCI.

(or part of it) on a beach in Bali, or on the either that or buying a two-bed flat in censki slopes of Aspen - you can.

Eichner has spent £44m converting half of the 26-storey Park Central Hotel in West 56th Street into The Manhattan Club and 253 luxurious timeshare suites. Its location, near Fifth Avenue and Central Park, couldn't be more central for businessmen or pleasure-

The apartments range from onebedroom, one-bath suites to two-bed, twobath suites. Each comes with a fullyequipped kitchenette with dishwasher and microwave, king- or queen-size beds. queen-size sofa-bed, marble bathrooms, fax and computer book-up capabilities and colour TVs. Owners also get access to a fitness room, meeting rooms, bar area, sauna and massage rooms and business centre. There is also a 24-hour concierge desk, and housekeeping service. Suites per week begin at £8.850 and rise to £40,000 (at an exchange rate of \$1.58 to the £) and are yours to keep, sell, bequeath, and rent in perpetuity. Prices do not include annual maintenance fees, which are currently £350 a year, or each owner's share of electricity and water,

Mr Eichner has 17,000 timeshare weeks for sale, which owners can either use in their entirety or as individual days throughout the year. It is a novel concept to belong not only to an exclusive New York club, but to own a bit of it as well.

Timeshare's selling techniques have changed, too. "We are not interested in the hard sell," he says. "If people are interested, then we can take them on a tour - no busy banker is going to be entired by a free gift to attend a presentation."

Despite his reassuring words, he admits that the business community is waiting to see it completed before committing itself.

Timeshare is a particularly attractive proposition to older people, with time to choose when they use. Recent statistics show that 37 per cent of timeshare owners in the US are over 55. That is likely to increase with news that Mr Eichner has just bought 12 acres of Florida's south beach to build another timeshare development.

Time will tell whether they will want to buy into his urban timeshare idea. He is also honing his sights on what he calls a fretrofit" in London (developing an existing hotel into timeshare apartments). Paris and Hong Kong.

When you consider that a botel room off Broadway would cost you nearly £200 a night, and one-bed suites at the Manhattan Club are twice the space of a Manhattan hotel room, you will have covered your So if you would rather spend your week timeshare costs in under five years. It is tral Manhattan which will set you back around £280,000 ...

> The Manhauan Club, 200 West 56th Street, New York, New York 10019; tel: 001 212 489 8488; fax 001 212 541 9766; Website: http://www.manhattanclub.com; e-mail: info@manhattanclub.com.

Nice home, but they work for it

Fancy living in the grounds of a stately Prime location, no Tube home? Or is a riverside apartment in the city more tempting? Perhaps you own an idyllic retreat, but spend so much time commuting you see little of it. I asked some train-timetablephobics how they achieved their housing dreams without going on

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bended knee to the building society. Breda Blount grew up on the west coast of Ireland. For four years she has lived in a riverside property in London, but has no mortgage. She is landlady of the Morpeth Arms, a "real pub" with an interesting past. Opposite is the "misery stone", where ships loading prisoners bound for Australia moored. Millbank prison was behind the pub, whose cellars would take the overflow of prisoners. "Tourists love being taken down to see the original cells," says Breda.

The pub keeps her busy seven days a week, and living "over the shop" is the only way to do things. But is it hard to separate business from home? "My regulars are my friends. I love this way of life. Even if I won the lottery I'd want to live here," says Breda, who regularly breakfasts in a nearby café for guaranteed peace.

City life affords unusual neighbours, and Breda is friends with curators of the Tate Gallery: "They've just invited me to go and see the Bonnard exhibition." Young's Brewery carries out all maintenance and decoration, leaving Breda with few outgoings. In return, she tolerates an unusual lodger: "The story goes that a prisoner escaped back into the cellars here and haunts the pub. My barman took a group there and one of them went into a trance and said he was in touch with the ghost." Has Breda heard chains rattling in the night? "The worst thing I've encountered round here is myself."

misery or mortgage hell ... so where's the catch? Ginetta Vedrickas on homes that go with the job

roaring and sea lions barking was bad until we got double-glazing." Ian is assistant chief game warden for Longleat safari park, and receives a tied cottage as part of his employment. He has lived on the estate for

21 years. Originally from Leeds, he lived in Blackpool for a time and finds jungle noises an improvement on his past homes: "I went to Blackpool recently and it was horrendous." He is happy with his lot, despite being permanently on call: "I don't drink. Someone has to be sensible in case the baby giraffes need bottle-feeding in the night."

Ian snorts at the thought of taking on a mortgage, as he doesn't think his pay would stretch that far, but his work has brought another bonus "That's how I met the wife. She was a coach driver, bringing the sightseers in."

Tied accommodation can be idvilie, but one person's fantasy isn't necessarily another's. Cheryl Risley grew up in Kent, the so-called Garden of England. Despite inheriting a cottage there, Cheryl is now a community worker living on the bleak Golflinks estate in Southall, and receives a 12-floor flat as part of her work supporting nine tenants with learning difficulties.

Is this a strange choice? "I prefer London. You've got to have your wits about you, but it's more challenging," says Cheryl.

She finds that living among her tenants gives her greater insight into nocturnal noises: "The sound of lions their personalities and problems, "We chains down in the cellar.

live and breathe the same air, there's no hierarchy. If they complain about rubbish or noise, they know that I'm experiencing the same."

Her work is variable. One minute finds her helping to sort out bills; the next she's ringing the DSS, which she does "while running the bath". She is on call for emergencies, and can't easily get away, even when not working: "People tend to slip notes under the door."

Does she ever consider buying? "I might, but I'd worry about subsidence or tenants running off without paying."

Cheryl sees many advantages of living on the job, and travelling to and from Rosa Cottage isn't for her. "I commuted into London for a week. and I'd look at men who spend their tives like that, and think, how do you

No commuting or mortgage payments are obvious advantages, but tied accommodation has a downside: losing your job could also mean losing your home. Ex-servicemen and women receive mandatory "resettlement advice" when they leave, but are often unprepared for civilian life, according to Cathy Walker, director of welfare for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's

Families Association. Cathy, herself an Army wife, has lived in married quarters for 20 years, and admits she sometimes "feels twitchy" when thinking about getting a foothold on the housing market. particularly when it is on an upturn. "During your potentially critical years you are standing still."

For those not averse to the occasional twitch, life needn't revolve around mortgages and commuting. Ever lie awake worrying about interest rates and train delays? Find yourself a job with a home included. The only thing to rouse you may be the roar of lions or the clank of





The virtual show flat is here

Viewing property has never been easier thanks to CD-Rom technology, writes Mary Wilson

The development sounds great, panorama down the Thames you fancy buying a flat, but there's a big problem - not a brick has been laid. You can look at plans and mult over models, but all this can never three-bedroom flats are left for replace actually being able to see what you might be buying.

An answer might be the latest interactive CD-Rom technology used by some housebuilders to show you exactly how the apartment will look, right down to fittings, lay-out and, perhaps, even views.

Galliard Homes first used an interactive visualisation system last year for Spice Quay, at But-Tower Bridge. When this development of 92 flats was launched it was nothing but a car-park. But you could sit in the marketing suite in front of a compictures of what it would look managing director. like. You could use the mouse to fly round the building, viewing from several angles, and choose a flat to explore.

Once inside, you could look at floor plans and the actual view from each window. The last eight months.

could be seen in daylight or all lit-up at night - and purchasers clearly liked what they virtually saw, as just nine one-, two- and sale, priced from £185,000 to £850,000.

The company is using a similar CD-Rom for 22 penthouses and staterooms at the White House development of the old Shell Downstream building in Belvedere Road, Waterloo, where prices will go up to £1.5m.

In Islington, North London, Grove Manor Homes is working on a virtual reality video for the lers Wharf, near London's £1.2m penthouse in its Angel on the Green development. "When you do not have a show flat until well into construction, it is a stunning way of showing a purchaser at a very early stage what puter and see seamless moving he can get," says Jeff Duggan, Other companies to invest in

CD-Roms to help sell their properties are Thirlstone and Berkeley Homes (Essex). Thirlstone has sent out 2,000 CD-Roms to interested parties in the

CD-Rom is an ideal tool to Thirlstone Home," says Tony Pidgley, managing director. Purchasers can choose the colour of director. the brickwork, the style of winand even the appearance and colour of the drive - and see exactly what they will look like.

Berkeley Homes launched its first interactive CD-Rom last year for four apartment developments in London and has been sending it out instead of a brochure. "Many of our buyers want to reserve homes in viewing but they help enhance advance of the properties being several steps forward and pro- Peter Stevenette, associate vide them with the nearest thing there is to reality," says Julian Lane, the sales and marketing director.

Since the launch of the CD- Spice Quay: 0171-378 0474; The Rom, the majority of Berkeley's White House: 0171-620 1500: 4.000 enquiries have been for Angel on the Green, 0171-359 the disc rather than for a printed 5259; Thirdstone Homes: 01932 brochure, and about £10m of 350900; Berkeley Homes, Essex: property has been sold as a 01277 222277; DTZ Debenham result. "We are hugely excited by Thorpe: 0171-408 2749.

"As 80 per cent of our devel-the success of the CD-Rom. opments are sold off-plan, a Our belief that interactive multimedia would be welcomed by demonstrate the flexibility of a our customers has been completely vindicated," says Steve Bryan, Berkeley's commercial

DTZ Debenham Thorpe, a dows, the layout of the house. London property agent, has just compiled a CD-Rom for 19 Upper Brook Street, a Georgian mansion in London's Mayfair.

"A recent client who invests heavily in property informed us that he had no time to travel around the world looking for properties to purchase. CD-Roms do not replace personal the marketing tools we are using built, and with this we can go to sell princely residences," says director of DTZ Debenham Thorpe. The property has a £10.5m price-tag.

AUGHTON GRANGE \$550,000. esenty under construction by Berkeles mees. A Modern Country House of

excellent proportion set within grounds of

about 1.8 acres Rec hall, drawing me, din

rm, family cm, study farmbouse in, brass

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which has been constructed in recent years to a high specification and standard. Well

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PEFORTER AND DAI GHTER



EXMOUTH DEVON \$285,000 O.N.O. Substantial 6 bedroomed, 2 bathrm detached house. Study, 29ft hitchen-breakfast rm, full size smooker room, 22ft summer room. Private Letters with heated race with heated swamming pool. gas

myBedrm, 2 Bathruts. Small gdn in rear. c.h. ett. DAVID RHYS & CO., 22 HIGH STREET, LIMON LADA SEVERY. Burelie Lalivard





HALAM, NOTTS, 195,000 19th Cennity Cottage. Wealth of character. 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, farmhouse kitchen and laundry, 2

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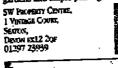
CURBRIDGE, OXON \$355,000 Luxury new dwelling 4.4 acres. A substantial new det house on the outskirts of Curbridge village just two miles from Witney 5 bedrus, 3 en suite, family bathrus with shower, 4 recs, superb kir, utility, cloakers, oil ch, dble gizzing, dble garage, overall 4.4 acres overlike open countryside

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Spacious accom, with two dual aspect reception rms, with fire places and fine bow windows, kit with ut two dual aspect double ber gardens and ampic parking.





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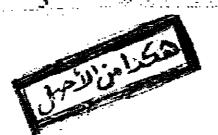
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Why would you want to buy a council property - your own or someone else's? Ginetta Vedrickas investigates

An auction by Andrews & Robertson re-cently featured several properties owned tracked and denied the problem was major. Among them was a four-floor Georgian house in Camberwell that, at a guide price of £160,000, seems a bargain.

ture bargains, be aware that the eventual buyers of this property, and others like it, may out why couldn't the council?" need many more cheques to restore their outstanding homes to their former glory.

A number of the Lambeth properties ere plagued by rather more than the odd bit of rising damp - they were lived in by squatters: getting them to leave can be both time-consuming and expensive.

Sadly, council coffers can't stretch to the restoration and a Lewisham spokesperson says: "We've got a large number of properties which are too expensive for us to refurbish and let so they're a drain on our finances."

Lack of investment and a persistent decline in housing stock forces local authorities to sell in order to concentrate on 1980s, many council tenants made the tranrepairing viable existing stock. But is it sition from rental to private ownership. worth buying council properties, and how Huge discounts gave buyers high profits on easy are they to sell?

When Michelle Cox bought her house on the Bullsmoor Lane Estate, in Enfield. buy and sell. she couldn't have imagined she would appear on national television representing 11 freeholders on the mainly council-owned estate: "Everything was fine until 1995 when find themselves vulnerable. we got letters telling us not to worry if we saw men with clipboards as they were do-

Michelle did not worry until she was invited to a residents' "information display" in October 1996: "The council said that be- people who should never have bought who cause of structural defects they were con- can just about manage until there's a winsidering refurbishment or demolition, dow replacement scheme which could cost When we asked about our position the £4,000." Homeowners have some autonocouncil said, 'What freeholders?' We realised they hadn't considered ns."

Tel: 0171 916 0313

by the London Borough of Lambeth. so she formed a frecholders' committee, investigated and discovered "a hell of a lot of problems" with the Bison-built estate: "I've turned into a sad person. The library know Before you scour auction rooms for fu- me well as I'm always ordering books about structural defects. But if I can find all this

Michelle wants the council to admit it should have known about the defects from Department of Environment and Association of Metropolitan Authority reports which warned of problems with this type of construction.

How does she feel about her home now? "Disgusted. We're struggling to pay the mortgage on a worthless house," says Michelle, who faces a £12,000 bill and homelessness while repairs are done. Michelle dismisses any chance of selling: Who'd give a mortgage on this place?"

Since Right to Buy legislation of the resale while others faltered because enormous service charges made it difficult to

The 10-year protection from charges given to original buyers in the Eighties boom has now expired and current buyers may

Dave Padfield, housing advisor for Tower Hamlets, in London, sees "marginal homeowners" struggling because they haven't fully considered the financial implications of estate improvements: "You get my over improvements, council lease-

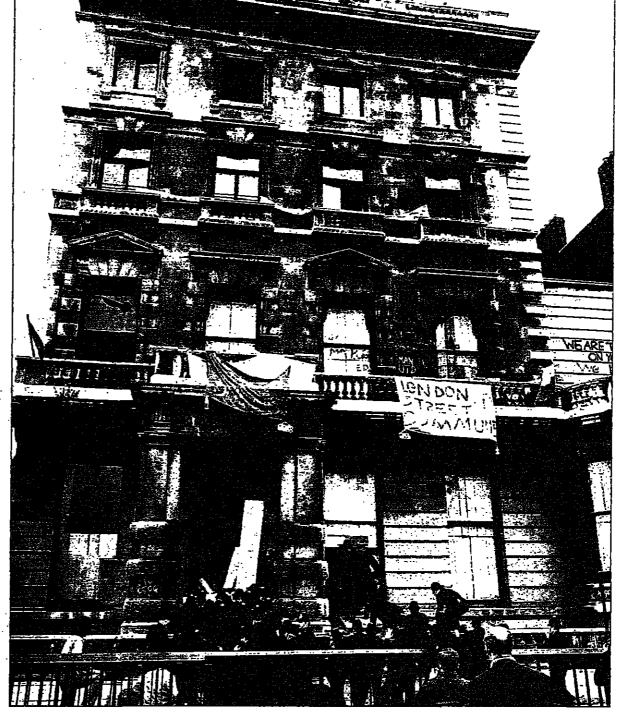
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prove more straightforward. Tim and Cathy Brown bought their Cambridgeshire farm was no longer economically viable. farmhouse in 1994. Their specific re-

and their six whippets. There were few houses that fitted the bill because many country houses have pock- they must retain the agricultural nature of et handkerchief gardens," says Tim, whose the surrounding land. But they have crehome is set in one-and-a-half acres. While ated a formal garden from scratch, putting the land was unusual so was the owner. Cam- in hedges to stop the wind from sweeping holders do not. Non-estate property may bridgeshire County Council was selling be- across and adding seclusion.

cause the tenants had died and the small

The Browns bought under sealed bid at quirement was land for themselves, son Sam an auction and, keen gardeners, concentrated on exteriors for the first few years. They can't build garden-type buildings as

Tim believes they chose wisely: "They've built 'executive homes' down the road which are enormous but they're cheek by jowl and you can see into neighbours'

windows."

The "unassuming" house is now unrecognisable and is 60 per cent larger thanks to an extension. A recent valuation by a local agent shows that its value has significantly increased.

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Serving notice: councils are selling off scores of squatted properties

eil housing but Tim and Cathy's home proves that estate doesn't have to be the urban variety. Tim says: "An unusual home is worth buying regardless of its previous owner."

The Browns found their dream home but others are not so lucky. An explosion in Kennington's Kerrin Point extensively damaged the building and after many heated committee meetings Lambeth have decided to demolish it. And the three freeholders in the block? "The council will fully recompense them," says a spokesperson.

Explosions can happen to any building but holding a local authority lease brings added complications leaving buyers vulnerable to the vagaries of council proce-

On sale for £115,000 through Hamptons Dulwich branch is a three-bedroom double-fronted property on the village outskirts while a two-bed flat nearby is valued at £117,000. No prizes for spotting the former council house.

Negotiator Carl Davenport believes the house is good value because of its proximity to good schools and city train services but must he work harder to sell it? "There is stigma. Some clients refuse outright to go and look but people should take each property on its own merits," says Carl, who has experienced lenders' reluctance to lend on council flats. He advises: "Leave yourselves extra time for the purchase as you may have to find a more sympathetic When questioned, most building soci-

eties deny discriminating against local authority stock but buyers of flats in tower blocks should clarify company policy before going ahead. The Woolwich does not lend on flats above the seventh floor while Bradford & Bingley stop at the fifth. Shop Privacy is not usually a feature of coun- around and the sky may be your limit.

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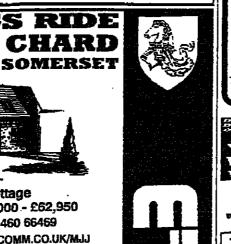
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Look before you leap abroad

An overseas assignment is the perkiest of perks. But do some homework before you rush to pack your bags. Robert Liebman suggests

Ah, France, A cultured nation whose people know their scene even after the expat has settled in. "There is always wine, love good food - and, when they vacate properties. someone you can turn to for help or advice," she says.

So says Judy Braham. Paris-based managing director of Executive Relocations France, who notes that most British expats are unprepared for the quirky realities of daily French life: "Homes and apartments here are very small, most are unfurnished, and when they are furnished. the furniture is usually very low quality. And they take everything when they move: toilets seats, cupboards,

The culprits are not dastardly French landlords but ordinary occupiers: "The tenants take them. It's the French way," says Ms Braham, in heavily accented English. She hails from New Zealand.

Caroline Jury, a senior finance lawyer and partner in the Frankfurt office of London solicitors Clifford Chance, eagerly agreed to live and work abroad - twice. "I joined Clifford Chance in London with the idea of working dam for a few months," says Ms Jury, "When I returned home, the UK seemed strange to me. Then the Frankfurt office approached me."

Language was not much of a barrier for Ms Jury, but cultural differences are less easily bridged: "Anglo-Saxons are proactive and Germans are reactive, so some of my business dealings can be frustrating," she admits. Mostly, however, she relishes the worklife of an expat because "there is a different approach to law, hence more interesting. I am learning all the time."

Frankfurt itself is "a little soulless but very pleasant and offering a good quality of life with great housing that is better quality for money than London. A lot of people work in Frankfurt during the week and go home on Friday, so it is quiet on weekends. Being in the centre of Europe.

Frankfurt is very convenient," she finds.

Before she left the UK for Germany, her employer eased the transition by organising many aspects of the relocation. Companies lacking in-house relocation expertise can turn to companies like Hambro for a "full relocation service," according to global business manager Clare Harrison. "We bring expats into and out of foreign countries. We can help find housing and schools, and prepare people for life in their new country. We explain cultural differences, and they may ask us, for example, how to behave at a dinner party." For couples, Hambro also provides "partner support".

tination country. "You are always working with at least France, tel. 00-33-1 47 55 60 29; Hambro Countrywide two people, and we provide ongoing assignment support." says Ms Harrison. The destination adviser stays on the 8BX. tel. 01256 708484; MASTA, tel. 0171 631 4408.

For certain destinations. Hambro also provides comprehensive health advice and can also bring in specialist security consultants. Such relocation consultation is not exactly cheap but bypassing it altogether can be more costly long-term: "If a relocation fails and you have to bring someone back and send someone else out, those costs are phenomenal. Our costs are very small compared to the hidden costs of a failed assignment," she says.

Relocating employees are more likely to settle in successfully if they can see and judge things in advance for themselves. To that end, companies like Executive Relocations offer familiarisation tours: "We provide information that is specific to the city they are moving to." says Ms Braham, who was herself an expat in London before founding her company in Paris a decade ago. "For the majority of our clients, we drive around with them, showing them apartments in various neighbourhoods. We also abroad, and I was seconded as a 'firefighter' to Amsterdam for a few months," says Ms Jury. "When I returned permits, visas, social security details and the names of, for example, bilingual doctors are also part of the service.

Although the brochure is silent on one specific, Executive Relocations can also recommend shops which sell assiettes de toilette.

Most Britons relocate to an EU country or America. where the biggest threats to health arise more from gluttony than guns. The risks in many tropical and developing countries, however, should not be overlooked or

"Anyone going to an exotic location should get appropriate medical advice." says Dr Peter Barnett, senior medical advisor to MASTA, Medical Advisory Services to Travellers Abroad. "In 1996, a total of 2,500 cases of malaria were imported into the UK, with 10 deaths, and they were all theoretically avoidable."

Based in the London School of Tropical Medicine, MASTA monitors the full panoply of travel-medicine developments, such as mosquito resistance to antimalarials. Travel medicine is a speciality, and MASTA is considerably more authoritative and up-to-date than the average GP. MASTA provides travel briefs, telephone helplines, jabs and mosquito nets, among other things.

Toilet seats in French are really siège des cabinets. And hangovers, not hepatitis, are the greater danger to most

Hambro assigns an advisor here and also in the des- Executive Relocations France, 30 rue de Lubeck, 75116 Paris, Relocation, PO Box 6246, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24



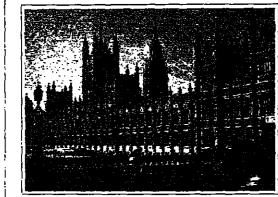
Chic galore – but Paris homes are very small, warns ex-pat Judy Braham, above

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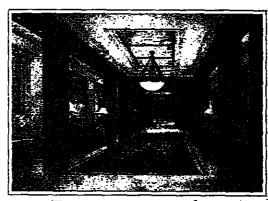




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